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Near East/South Asia Report

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INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES URGED

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic Jul-Aug 86 pp 65-67

[Article by Muhammad al-Mulla, secretary general of the Union of Foreign Chambers of Commerce: "Importance of Industrial Coordination in the Gulf Cooperation Council States"]

[Text] I. Role of Industry in Gulf Economy

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council share many characteristics and features, such as an abundant amount of petroleum and natural gas and a paucity of other natural resources. The similarity of its population and its production framework makes up the major limit on economic development, except that it makes coordination, cooperation, and integration absolute necessities in order to utilize jointly the ample current resources and to develop them for the benefit of all the citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, by giving support to consolidate the level of progress and development that the Gulf region has witnessed during the past decade.

Industrial transformation is considered new in Gulf societies, for the economies of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries depend to a large degree on the petroleum sector as a principal source of income, a basic financier of development, and as the greatest participant in generating the gross national product. Table 1 shows that except in Bahrain, the share of the petroleum sector fluctuates between 62.2 and 68.8 percent in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries for the year 1980. It also shows that the following years saw a clear retreat in the share of this sector in the generation of gross national product. That was strengthened principally by the severe drop that has affected this sector, not to mention the increase in the share of the other sectors, especially the industrial sector that has developed at a high average during the 1970's and early 1980's. But due to recentness of this phenomenon, the effect of the industrial sector on all aspects of economic and social development is still limited and has not been crystallized in the desired form. Likewise the structure of the transformation industries are not on solid ground and are weak in upstream and downstream integration. It is noted in Table 2 that the share of the transformation industries in the gross national product is low. Likewise it notes the consolidation of this share in Kuwait, Qatar, and the Emirates during the years 1983 and 1984, along with a comparative expansion in the share of industry in Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman for the same period. Bahrain is the only country whose share of

transformation industry declined in 1984 to 11.8 percent from its 15.5 percent share in the gross national product for 1980. This is also made clear in Table 2. But Bahrain is still the only country of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries that preserves a high share of industry in the gross national product above the Arab mean. Likewise it is worth pointing out that the Sultanate of Oman is the smallest of the Arab countries with regard to the proportion of industry in the gross national product during the period mentioned in Table 2. But the sultanate remains the only Arab country in which industry has developed at rates above all the oil-producing and non-oil-producing Arab countries, whereby the average of its development reached 79.1 percent for 1980, 76.1 percent for 1983, and 31 percent for 1984, as it was brought out in the 1985 unified Arab economic report, reflecting the rapid course that the sultanate is exerting in following in the footsteps of its Gulf and Arab sister countries.

Table 1. Share of the Petroleum Sector in the Gross National Product of the Gulf Cooperation Countries (at Current Prices)

	Percentages			
Country	1980	1982	1983	1984
The Emirates	63.5	48.7	43.5	43.5
Bahrain	32.0	24.1	19.6	20.0
Saudi Arabia	62.2	62.3	47.3	33.0
Oman	62.5	54.9	50.9	51.1
Qatar	67.4	54.5	46.1	46.1
Kuwait	68.6	49.0	50.4	51.4

Source: The Arab Fund: The 1985 United Arab Economic Plan

Table 2. Share of the Transformation Industries Sector in the Gross National Products of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, 1980-84 (at Current Prices)

	Percentages			
Country	1980	1982	1983	1984
The Emirates	3.8	8.2	8.7	8.7
Bahrain	11.5	11.3	11.5	11.8
Saudi Arabia	5.0	4.3	5.8	7.5
Oman	0.7	1.4	2.3	2.8
Qatar	3.3	5.0	6.0	6.0
Kuwait	5.9	6.6	6.4	6.3
The Arab mean	6.6	7.5	8.5	9.1

Source: The Arab Fund: The 1985 United Arab Economic Plan

II. Problems and Constraints of Gulf Industry

The industrial production framework is still dominated by the public sector in the production and supply of many products. The following industries are at the top of the pyramid of the activities this sector controls. They are:

1. Petroleum refining and gas liquification.

2. Petrochemical industries.

3. Chemical fertilizer industries.

4. Iron and steel industry.

The private sector undertakes the production and distribution of a wide range of consumer and production commodities and the metal framework, pipe, metal-molding, wood, plastics, other industries. In most of the Arab Gulf countries there is a big lack of the medicine and apparel industries. Despite what has been given to the Gulf's private sector in means of support, encouragement, and financing, aside from the great development that permeates the frameworks and the basic structures that make up important supports for any industrial growth, the share of the private sector in the gross national product and the other production sectors is still very low. It has no significant effect on the generation of the gross national product and the diversification of the sources of income. Some of that can be attributed to a group of problems and constraints that block the path of Gulf industry and limit its progress. The memorandum presented by the General Secretariat of this Union to the Conference of Gulf Industrialists held in Doha in December 1985 includes these:

1. The limited number of produced commodities.

2. The lack of national administrative, technical, and trained manpower cadres.

3. The relative increase in the risks of industrial investment.

4. The long period of time between investment and profit realization.

5. The severe competition facing national producers from foreign producers and the deep-seated preference of Gulf consumers for imported products.

6. The relative lack of some agricultural products and other mineral raw materials except petroleum, which forces some of the industries to rely on imports from abroad to respond to their requirements and their need for raw materials (and services), an issue that reflects the weakness of integration between the existent industries.

7. The similarity, duplication, and harmful repetition that created competition between national producers inside one country and between the Gulf countries, aside from the material and spiritual ruin. Indicative of this are the conspicuous complaints against the lack of an increase in opportunities for worthy investments in the Gulf.

The General Secretariat put forth a number of proposals to enable the Gulf industries to arrive at an adequate share in its local market by raising customs protection for the new industries in the face of market-flooding policies that the giant foreign companies practice, and the full implementation of the government regulations to give preference to national products in government purchasing and to give a portion of grants and assistance to developing countries in the form of national products instead of funds and other important proposals. The General Secretariat also proposed a number of ways to develop exports and to encourage the foreign demand for products of the private Gulf industrial sector with the goal of raising the financing and support for these exports.

III. Future of Gulf Industry

The Gulf private sector strives, by utilizing its monetary surpluses and planning its investment projects, to achieve protection and a compensating profit. Consequently it is set in motion by these investments toward the sectors that give the greatest rewards and profits in the Gulf countries or outside of them, so that the effective incentives for the private sector will be harmonious with the development directions of the Gulf governments. These countries must be accountable for utilizing their financial and monetary policies to reconcile the public and private advantages to benefit the individual and society. Due to the newness of the creation of the private sector in the Gulf and the increase in the impetus for investing abroad, the Gulf countries' governments are more accountable than at any previous time to assist the private sector to correct its past shortcomings and to solidify its role as a leading societal girth to which the Gulf countries turn to bridge the investment gap that it created. From here comes the importance of solidifying a new role for the financial development and commercial organizations. It is centered around several axes that work together to encourage the private sector to penetrate the fields of production investment and to correct its flight toward easy sectors such as distribution and services. These are:

1. The participation of the finance sector in its development and commercial activities, providing long-term financing needs to the private sector and directing that financing toward the production sectors.

2. The banks should adopt, study, and promote production projects, participate in their establishment, and offer their investment, legal, economic, and administrative expertise to those who will enable them to surpass the period of production in the first years.

3. The industrial and the national and local agricultural development funds should take on the role of mediator between the private sector and the commercial financial sector by borrowing from the commercial banks and by granting long-term financing to the private sector. The government funds can create a special section to carry out the tasks of investment banks.

4. Let scheduling and planning take the place of spontaneity in making investment decisions. This will point to a bigger role that economic and engineering consulting firms can expect to play and will call for the consolidation of energies in this sector to give better service.

5. Increased participation of the governments in the costs of training the national work force to lessen the amounts spent in the national factories for training programs. In addition to that, the production of a capable, trained work force will become equivalent to the monies spent on it.

6. Lower the fees of residency and travel and the fees for the services associated with the foreign work force to lessen those financial burdens that the investor bears, so that the government imports will not be affected by this reduction. This must be limited to the producing companies only in the fields of industry and agriculture.

7. Due to the presence of various and numerous fees that the producing units must bear, and their sharing in the increased costs such as the port fees and the charges for shipping and unloading, these fees must be reconsidered or canceled. In addition, customs exemptions must be allowed for imported necessities used in production.

The previous proposals have as their goal increasing new investment access to expand the base of Gulf industrial production and to raise an atmosphere of adequate protection to keep Gulf funds invested in its local markets, to make economic and social development take root, and to participate in the making of the shining future in which all will participate in building, increasing its assets, and utilizing jointly its taxes and profits. Remaining is a final word: the necessity to establish future Gulf projects on a joint basis instead of small individual projects.

IV. Importance of Gulf Industrial Planning and Cooperation

Under current economic conditions, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries must be careful to coordinate their development efforts and to subject their markets together to deliberate detailed study to delimit the scopes of worthy industrial investment and to distribute projects and their country locations according to their relative characteristics and other standards that will allow for the joint beneficial realization of the joint projects. At the same time they will take part in the development of the Gulf industrial structure. The call to coordination is based on the previous concept. The General Secretariat proposed this unity during one of the monthly papers that it distributed to the activities of the private and public sectors. The proposal is based on:

1. The creation of a unified system of regulations for joint Gulf projects that would have the same encouragement and support given to the private projects in all the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

2. The setting up of a body to coordinate between similar industries. Industrial committees would supervise them inside the Gulf Chambers of Commerce. Their technical treasury would be run by the Gulf Industrial Investment Organization, with the cooperation of the Gulf industry ministries.

3. The grouping of similar industries around one commercial name, and the coordination of production and marketing plans from this level.

4. Giving preference to Gulf producers to participate in the establishment of new joint companies so that we ensure the direction of the policies of the new companies so that they will be consistent with what exists and we can thereby prevent duplication and harmful repetition.

The call for cooperation does not mean centralizing the concern for the Gulf market alone, but there is wide acceptance to build a strategy for export industries, their being considered the most capable of surpassing the severe constraints of the Gulf markets. But the need for coordination has as its goal basically giving a fair share to Gulf industry in its local markets, before releasing them to the international markets. Likewise it has as its goal enabling Gulf industry to arrive at the break-even point inside its markets so that it can compete internationally.

The aimed-for coordination allows the gathering of the finances and the organizational energies of the private sector in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to lead a perceptive and planned program of the industrial sector that works to remove the deficiency in the industrial production framework, to bring about increased spheres for upstream and downstream integration, and to utilize raw materials and other manufactured commodities that are exported to the developed countries and are then manufactured there and returned to the region in the form of finished products. Likewise, industrial coordination seeks to remove the constrictions that the ongoing industries suffer that constrict the marketing outlets and result in the presence of idle capacities, to work to operate these factories, and to utilize them to supply a portion of the need in the other Gulf Cooperation Council countries, while making use of what is given to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the legal and political spheres, follow-up channels, and the dialogue that encourages and strengthens cooperation and removes difficulties from its path.

Cooperation and coordination are the inevitable destiny of the Gulf region, because they bring about the healthy utilization of the natural, financial, and limited human resources, the best utilization of the present production efforts, the growth of production, a lowering of production costs, and the enabling of the Gulf industry to compete inside its local markets and in foreign markets. Gulf cooperation takes on new dimensions with the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the declaration of the unified economic agreement. Supporting it is the utilization of the ample capabilities in these countries to increase their negotiating power in marketing their products internationally. Before us now are the effort and continued exertion that the secretariat of the council will undertake in negotiating with the European group regarding Gulf petrochemicals and their entry into the European markets on preferential bases. Likewise, joint negotiation supports the obtaining of technology and shares in its transfer. The setting up of the unified Gulf industrial strategy that we hope will translate into comprehensive development plans will put in order the priorities of industrialization and will share in the creation of an integrated industrial base capable of lasting and continuing within rational limits of support and protection.

13013/12859
CSO: 4404/510

ALL-ARMENIAN PATRIARCH'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

Beirut ARARAT in Armenian 13 Aug 86 p 2

[Text] IZVESTIA, the official organ appearing in Moscow has published the letter of Vazken I, Catholicos of All-Armenians addressed to President Reagan. Herewith the letter in full.

His Excellency
Mr Ronald Reagan
President of the United States of America
Washington.

Your Excellency,

These words are addressed to you by the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Vazken I, Catholicos of All-Armenians from Saint Etchmiadzin, the age-old center of the Christian faith of the Armenian nation, in the Soviet Armenian Republic.

We write to you with feelings of respect and a profound esteem for the American people whom we came to know during our visit to your country in 1960 and 1963. We think the American people are lively and kindhearted, given to peaceful and creative work. We are certain that today, too, the sons of that mighty American fatherland are animated by the same virtues.

Your Excellency,

We address this letter to your Christian conscience in order that through your international authority you may help in preventing nuclear war, help in the general disarmament and in the final establishment of peaceful coexistence which was the dream and the vow of the founding nations of the Organization of United Nations in San Francisco in 1945.

The desires of universal disarmament and of peaceful coexistence are today the highest aspirations of the vast masses of peoples, and all the churches and religious organizations and their most fervent prayer to the Almighty. One of the brightest expressions of this spirit was the 14 June historic letter of His Holiness Patriarch Bimen, head of the Russian Pravoslav Church addressed to Your Excellency and which we too welcomed with great enthusiasm. The letter addressed to you by the Soviet Government proposing a moratorium on the testing

of atomic weapons and a plan of gradual reduction of all kinds of atomic and chemical weapons, with a view to their total elimination from the world by the end of our century as a source of comfort and filled us with high hopes. Allow us to express the conviction that your government also will assist by all the means at its disposal in the vitalization of the above-mentioned salutary program so that the dawn of the 21st century may herald the coming of a new life for mankind, freed from fire and sword.

It is with the same bright hopes that we appeal to you and your responsible associates that the building of a peaceful and just world, a world without wars be considered first priority, above all else, and for which our Savior Jesus Christ came to earth and bore the suffering on the cross, for the sake of our sins.

We know full well that mankind has to face over pressing problems which await their solution. But we are convinced that such problems can only be solved in conditions of peace. We are certain that from now on, no war, no armament race can solve any political, economic, social or moral problem. That is why, today more than ever, the message of John the Apostle "the fruits of justice are planted in peace for those who are builders of peace" is appropriate for our time. Indeed and especially from now on, all the just issues between nations can only be resolved through peaceful coexistence.

These then are the heart-felt words of the first aervant of the Armenian Church and addressed to Your Excellency, words coming from his Christian conscience and the tragic experiences of his people. In truth, the Armenian Church and its faithful people have for centuries been trampled underfoot and have been martyrized several times for the sake of Christ and for the freedom of their fatherland, during wars waged by their powerful neighbors. It is one church and one people, that have survived also the first genocide of our century in the years 1915-1916 during World War I and during which around two million Armenians perished in Western Armenia, in the period of Ottoman domination. One church and one people, half of whom were saved by miracle in Eastern Armenia and who thrive and prosper in peace under safe conditions in the Soviet Armenian Republic.

Our church, our fervent people in Armenia and in the Diaspora of whom more than half a million are hard-working citizens of your country do not desire war, do not desire increased armaments, now genocides nor new destructive tragedies.

Your Excellency, we do not know what effect our appeal will have on your heart, but in any event, we shall continue to pray so that all-loving God may support you to realize the desire of the broad masses of the peoples of the world for a general disarmament and a harmonious coexistence of states. In this manner, your name also shall be inscribed in the book of history as one of the great architects in the building of a peaceful and just future for the world.

We wish you peace of heart, patience and a bright outlook on life. "Henceforth, strengthen yourselves with the Lord and with the power of his might."

12364/9274
CSO: 4605/71

GUNESH: ANTI-ARMENIAN DOCUMENTS STOLEN FROM TURKISH ARCHIVES

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 11 Aug 86 pp 1, 4

[Text] GUNESH raises the alarm in its issues yesterday and today, claiming that certain Ottoman documents have been stolen and sold off abroad to Armenians. These documents are capable of disproving Armenian claims and support the Turkish viewpoint in the Armenian Question. The paper reports that Mehmet Percin, an assistant to the Prime Minister's advisory body, is in Istanbul and has been conducting an investigation at the Directorate General of State Archives.

"Turkish Security Units," which are trying to find ways to fight against new Armenian strategies, have discovered that some important Ottoman documents have been stolen in Turkey by unknown persons. It is claimed that there is an investigation underway concerning a high-ranking official of the Directorate of State Archives who has helped an Armenian researcher.

The paper reports that civil servants are collecting Armenian materials from archives everywhere and reporting their finds to Ankara. These materials disprove the Armenian claims. Therefore, their theft deprives Turkey of the opportunity to prove that the Armenian claims are baseless.

Mehmet Percin has said that he is personally not aware that such documents have been stolen and sold to the Armenians. But, Percin said, I have also heard speculative reports that Armenian documents have been plundered in past years.

Another advisor said:

"Important documents of neither the Ottoman nor the Republican periods are properly classified in our country. Documents of the Ottoman period in particular are in great disarray. Numerous documents are stored in damp underground passages and are soaked. Over the past 5-6 years there have been claims that certain Armenian documents have been stolen. Today, however, it is impossible to take out even a scrap of paper, let alone a document, from the Directorate of the State Archives.

In the meanwhile, numerous specialists and researchers have been denied entry to the Directorate General on the grounds that disinfectation work is in progress there.

GUNESH has further reports today on the same topic and says that an anonymous caller has informed the paper's editorial office that it is true that there has been a theft and that Mehmet Percin has come to Istanbul in this connection. Investigations by police officers continue strict secrecy.

It is reported, however, that all scientists and even ambassadors who have so far shown any interest in the documents in question are coming under investigation one after another.

13184/12947
CSO: 4605/69

TURKISH-MADE FILM CLAIMS ARMENIANS MASSACRED TURKS

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 8 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] The Turkish paper BAYRAM informs that a series of T.V. films have been prepared which try to "prove" that in 1915 Armenians massacred Turks. The films are titled "The Blood on the Wall". The proofs...abound. False proofs surely, worthy of the Turks.

This reel will be shown in 6 episodes which have taken nine months to shoot. The story begins on 24 April 1915 when the Armenians, according to this new "discovery", go from house to house in Constantinople arresting Turks, Turkish intellectuals and clergymen, take them away, and subject them to unimaginable tortures.

Talking of this film, the Director of Turkish radio and T.V. Toskai Tunja points out that the film will reveal the "reality" and will refute Armenian allegations about a genocide.

The film was shot in Kars and Erzerum, with 300 actors and 5000 extras taking part in its preparation and a certain Hakane Fikret holding the lead role.

Toskai Tunja boasts that the film has already been sold to English, Italian, German, American and French companies and will be projected simultaneously on Turkish T.V. The producer is one Bakkal Ramazan.

There is no doubt that this film which "exposes the Armenian atrocities and the evil intentions of the Armenians" has been prepared entirely by the Turkish State in a new and narrow-minded effort to falsify historic truths. We think taht Toskai Tunja should not be very hopeful about showing this film in other countries as the latter will surely have second thoughts about projecting it.

Turkey's new effort to falsify history places the Armenian nation face to face with a new and vile Turkish initiative.

This initiative launched with the film "The Blood on the Wall" is destined to failure too, because this act will reveal the Turks in their true light.

12364/12947
CSO: 4605/70

FOREIGN CONTRACTORS EXPERIENCING PAYMENT DELAYS

London MEED in English 13 Sep 86 pp 20, 21

[Article by David Hawley]

[Text]

A WEST German construction company recently downed tools on a Libyan site because it was not being paid. The stoppage, which began in June, lasted six weeks, until the firm — Bilfinger & Berger (B&B) — extracted a new payments schedule from the client, Tripoli municipality. But the agreement, which came after angry exchanges between a director from the company's Wiesbaden headquarters and mayor of Tripoli Abdel-Majid Gaoud, has still to be put into effect.

The dispute about the LD 7 million ($22.2 million) road job, on the capital's corniche, is typical of B&B's problems in Libya. It is owed several million dinars and has put in an interest claim on arrears. The story is far from unusual: dozens of international contractors are trying to get money out of Libya, although B&B is the first to invoke sanctions as a means of doing so.

The country has become a nightmare for foreign construction companies, which are claiming more than $2,000 million in unpaid bills. The crisis is the result of Tripoli's acute shortage of cash — exacerbated by the government's indecisiveness, contractors say. Frustrated by the payments halt, they are threatening to follow B&B by imposing sanctions against a country that is no longer paying its way.

Payments delays are no novelty in Libya, which first asked to pay contractors in oil in 1982. However, the oil price collapse at the beginning of 1986 brought these liftings to an abrupt halt as the gap between the government's asking price for oil and its market value widened to 30 per cent. Difficulties have been compounded by a sudden devaluation of the dinar, the weakness of the dollar and ever-present bureaucratic snags.

Impasse

Contractors are not looking for a swift end to the impasse, which has frozen new contract awards. They have welcomed a Libyan offer to clear debts with oil valued at market rates, but say if the government cuts production in line with the August OPEC agreement, little crude is likely to be available for this purpose.

"Since January, the biggest creditors have appealed to clients for money, but nothing has happened. We are struggling with them," says one South Korean marketing executive in Tripoli. A German site manager is more forceful: "We won't sign any new contracts until payments improve," he says. Such fighting talk is explained by the size of Libya's debts.

The leading creditor is Italy, whose construction companies are owed about $600 million, diplomats in Tripoli say. Next come South Korean firms, which are seeking $400 million; West Germany and Turkey are each owed about $350 million. Smaller

arrears are outstanding to French, Spanish and UK contractors.

Nor are East European companies exempt from delays. Details are vague, but Yugoslavia alone is owed about $30 million on civil works projects. And the figure could rise, because Yugoslav contractors have a $1,000 million order book in Libya.

The estimates come from diplomats and contractors. No Libyan figure for the size of the country's debt is available, but the authorities are known to dispute contractors' claims. Companies generally describe as debt those invoices accepted by a client's engineer. The government definition produces a smaller figure because it counts as debt only those invoices approved by a series of committees, headed by the Treasury Committee.

The largest sums outstanding to single companies are owed to South Korean firms, contractors say. Heading the list is Daewoo Corporation, which admits arrears of $270 million to the end of July in its $1,569 million current order book. Other South Korean sources say the sums could be much larger — one suggests the debts total $450 million.

Samsung and Hyundai are both owed about $60 million. Dong Ah, which is main contractor for the $3,300 million first phase of the great man-made river (GMR) project, is owed only $35 million. The small size of this sum, in relation to Dong Ah's current order book, reflects the prestige attached to the GMR (MEED 30:8:86, page 34).

In contrast to other leading creditors, Korean debt has built up rapidly. For example, Daewoo has been working in Libya only since 1979. But the extent of its arrears is so great it has recently acquired a 65,000-barrel-a-day (b/d) Belgian refinery to process crude supplied by Libya. "We plan to operate (the) refinery so as to minimise the loss likely to arise from oil dealing. However, the processing capacity of this refinery and its operation schedule are not fixed yet," a company representative in Seoul says.

Daewoo has accumulated so much local currency — which has to be spent in Libya. It is building a LD 37 million office complex in Tripoli for which it is being paid only in dinars. On completion in mid-1987, the five-tower complex, on a coastal site, will be Libya's largest building.

Netback losses

The value of contractors' debts has risen sharply in 1986 because the government has stopped servicing them, companies claim. "The last oil shipment was in January, on the old system," says one.

Since 1982, when Libya reached oil supply agreements with about 10 contractors, Brega International Marketing Company (BIMC) has been supplying crude to meet progress payments. BIMC, the marketing arm of the National Oil Corporation, supplied crude at official prices. "Until last year, there were no problems — except for crude oil payments," one Korean contractor says.

The loss on reselling the crude averaged about 10 per cent over the life of the agreement, he says. "This was a lot of loss. We accepted it, even though we asked for compensation because the contract offered cash." No company has succeeded in obtaining compensation for moving from cash to oil. When the oil price fell in January, the Korean company stopped lifting crude: "The main reason we couldn't take crude was that the gap in price was 20-30 per cent on the deal."

The government has offered inducements to contractors to take crude by lowering the official price of oil in the second and third quarters and introducing, from March, a modified netback agreement. However, yields from the netback arrangements are inadequate, contractors claim.

A wider problem — and one that is likely to worsen — is the lack of crude at BIMC. "We are entitled to be paid immediately we have a credit (at BIMC), but usually they do not give us the oil. Non-availability of crude is the main reason cited," the Korean marketing executive says.

Libya intends to shave about 200,000 b/d from present production to bring output down to its 990,000-b/d OPEC quota. Contractors fear this will further reduce the volumes set aside for them.

Price and availability of crude are only two of the problems that have beset contractors. The government made matters worse by devaluing the dinar in mid-March. The shift, from a fixed dollar rate of $1 = LD 0.30 to a floating rate linked to the SDR, has wiped an average 10 per cent from the value of the dinar. The move is interpreted by contractors, whose invoices are denominated in dinars, as a further attempt to save on foreign exchange costs.

Red tape

To specific complaints is added a more general one about increasing bureaucratic delays. These include lengthy vetting of invoices and delays in taking over projects by clients. This is blamed partly on the shortage of suitably qualified local operation and maintenance (O&M) staff to run completed plant.

Daewoo's five-tower complex is 12 months late, despite the company being paid in dinars. "The main problem is the approval procedure for drawings and materials by the client," a local representative says. "To get a decision here," another contractor says, "(depends) on collective responsibility at several levels. And this can be very difficult. Trying to find the decision-maker is a constant problem."

The government's slow reaction to the payments crisis has angered contractors. However, the March introduction of net-backs has eased some problems. Italian, Korean and Turkish companies have since announced the resumption of oil deals (see box).

Too little cash and too many delays have damaged Libya's reputation. Damning judgment was delivered earlier in 1986, when contractors refused to sign a LD 100 million road job in the Tripoli area because they had so little confidence in the client's ability to pay for it.

"Libya's idea is to share problems with contractors," says one West European engineer. In Tripoli business circles, many agree with this view, but most reject the sentiment.

Italian contractors settle for oil

HARD-PRESSED Italian contractors have just lifted a second batch of crude oil as part of a 10-month oil barter deal aimed at cutting Libya's debts. The 36 companies in the agreement, which was arranged without Italian government involvement, hope to recoup $135 million by April 1987.

The arrangement was negotiated by the companies' industry federation, Associazione Nazionale Costruttori Edile (ANCE). The oil is supplied on a netback basis, with a guarantee that product realisations are not more than 14 per cent below the market price. Brega International Marketing Company (BIMC) has not disclosed which qualities it has supplied, but the Italians are known to prefer the premium 37.5° API Al-Sider crude.

Agip, the Rome-based oil and gas exploration company, lifts the oil for a fee. Its agreement does not commit it to using the oil on its own account.

Contractors whose work has been accepted by their Libyan clients are eligible for a share in the proceeds of the sale. The value of outstanding bills stood at $550 million at the end of 1985, but Libya's failure to pay other than a few invoices during 1986 has brought the figure to closer to $600 million. As more work is completed and accepted, the bills for this may be added to the payments schedule.

The agreement applies only to debts to contractors. Goods suppliers, whose Libyan claims now total $125 million, are seeking cash settlements.

Paying contractors with oil is not new. The ANCE deal is the second with Libya to involve Italian contractors negotiating as a group. The first agreement, which was government-to-government, ran for five months from December 1984. About $180 million in debts was cleared before the agreement lapsed, as the gap widened between the spot price of crude and the official price at which it was supplied.

A bureaucratic obstacle course

APART from constant concern about payments, contractors working in Libya are beset by a variety of less serious difficulties. Chief among them is a baffling bureaucracy.

A tortuous invoice clearance procedure provides many companies with an insight into the way the system can work. Once a bill has been approved by a client, the papers are passed to the diwan of audit, which checks they are in order. They then go to the Treasury Committee. Only approval by this committee guarantees that a budget allocation has been made for the payment. The discovery that no formal allocation has been made for a project has come as an unwelcome surprise even to companies with experience of working in Libya.

Treasury Committee approval does not mean funds will automatically be forthcoming. A final decision rests with the Debt Committee, which is charged with finding the means to pay the invoice. For many contractors, this now means a credit for oil supplied by the Brega International Marketing Company. The whole process can take up to four months — excluding a further delay until crude becomes available, says one contractor.

These delays are inherent in the system, which contractors describe as unwieldy. Others occur because of "petty harassment," as one executive terms it. "An invoice might be moving smoothly, but is suddenly stopped unless you can get a spare part for a car," he says. Spares for cars and consumer goods are notoriously difficult to obtain in Libya, and contractors are seen as a useful supply conduit for such goods.

Importing spares — and sometimes complete cars — is a minor irritant compared with the problems of getting project equipment into the country. Many contractors report delays in getting approval for machinery imports. One says customs duties have recently been imposed on several companies whose contracts allowed duty free equipment imports. "The problem of duties suddenly being imposed on exempt contracts is widespread," he says.

Getting staff into Libya can be equally tiresome — and in some cases costly. "Visas can be blocked for weeks," one contractor says. The loss of key staff may hold up work. "We can't claim that this is a cause of construction delays," he adds.

The problem of getting staff to work in Libya is compounded by difficulties in repatriating salaries. One West European contractor says the rules have changed, progressively reducing the proportion of the salary that can be transferred overseas. His company is making arrangements to pay part of its staff's salaries outside the country, in an effort to circumvent the rules.

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ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACING NEW PRIME MINISTER

Nicosia MEMO in English 26 Aug 86 p 14, 15

[Article "Rashid Sfar's economic challenges"]

[Text] The July 8th removal of Mohammed Mzali from Tunisia's premiership was generally viewed as the product of the weakening of his power base within the cabinet. In repeated cabinet reshuffles that have taken place since the beginning of this year many of Mzali's supporters lost their jobs. Among those removed were Mezri Chekir, Civil Service and Administrative Reform Minister and Bechi ben Slama, Culture Minister. Mzali's wife was also dismissed from her position as Minister for Family and Women's Affairs.

Nonetheless, the fact that Rashid Sfar, Mzali's successor, is a specialist on economic and financial affairs, may imply that the appointment of a new Prime Minister was also designed to highlight the need for improvement in the economic field. Seen from this perspective, Sfar's appointment may be considered similar to that of Ali Lutfi to the Egyptian premiership in September last year.

Little oil at low prices

Although Tunisia has the fourth largest per capita GNP in Africa (after major oil producers Libya, Gabon and Algeria), its overall economic situation is passing through a particularly difficult period which is likely to galvanise the government into some sort of drastic action.

In the first place, the current situation in the oil market, which has affected most countries in the Middle East, caused serious problems to the Tunisian economy. Tunisia is not a major oil exporter. It exported 110,000 b/d in 1983 but present export levels are believed to be below 100,000 b/d. However, it continues to obtain more than 40 percent of its foreign income from such exports. For example, oil income in 1985 reached TD 604 million ($803 million), a 9 percent drop over 1984, but a respectable amount nonetheless.

The sharp decline in oil prices at the beginning of this year will inevitably hit Tunisia rather badly. In a speech he delivered at the beginning of 1986 — in his capacity as National Economy Minister — Rashid Sfar predicted that if oil prices were to stabilise at around $15 per barrel, Tunisia's 1986 losses would be in the region of $110 million. Now, with prices ranging around $10 per barrel, losses will certainly be much greater.

All the more so that oil production in several of Tunisia's offshore fields is no longer economical as production costs are estimated at about $15 per barrel, higher than the prevailing spot prices for crude at this point.

There is the suggestion that the oil market will eventually improve with prices reaching satisfactory levels, possibly in the early years of the next decade. Countries with sizeable oil

reserves (like those in the Gulf) can live with this hope and look forward to better days.

For Tunisia there can be no such consolation. With its total oil reserves believed to be at around 45 million tonnes, Tunisia can ill afford to wait for the rise in prices projected for the 1990s. Its own reserves are likely to be depleted by then and with domestic needs growing rapidly (from 23,000 b/d in 1973 to 53,000 b/d in 1983), Tunisia will be a net oil importer in the early stages of the next decade. Aware of its limited capacities in the field of oil production the North African country has already expressed the wish to withdraw from the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Furthermore, given the present situation in the oil market, there is no real strong incentive for oil exploration. Foreign companies involved in the Tunisian oil industry are already experiencing losses amounting to TD 10 million ($13 million) for each cut of $1 in prices. Under such circumstances stepping up investments in oil-orientated projects appears unwise.

Other problems

Aside from oil, Tunisia earns the bulk of its foreign income from exports of fertilisers and textiles and from tourism. Exports of fertilisers and textiles in 1985 increased by 7 percent and 6 percent respectively over 1984.

However, things may not be as good this year as the fertiliser market continues to experience contraction. Tunisia's textile exports, most of which end up in Europe, are also in for difficult times. Added to the European textile importers' protectionism is the accession to the EEC of Portugal and Spain, two countries which export sizeable quantities of textiles. Thus Tunisian exports will be faced with stiff competition.

On the other hand, despite violent incidents in the region such as the Achille Lauro affair and the Israeli bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis, 1985 tourism earnings are thought to have exceeded TD 400 million ($530 million), a rise of about 15 percent compared to the previous year.

Tunisia's financial situation is not exactly rosy. Its balance of payments deficit currently stands at TD 230 million ($360 million). Deficits in the current accounts, ensuing mainly from the sizeable disparity in its terms of trade — even in 1984 import expenses were almost twice as high as export earnings — have squeezed the country's foreign exchange reserves and led to rather massive borrowing from overseas.

Foreign currency reserves are presently estimated at $233 million, a decline of more than 65 percent compared to 1982. The foreign debt stood at $5.5 billion at the end of 1985, growing by $210 million over the end-1984 figure. Small as it may appear in absolute terms, this debt assumes serious proportions when one considers that it is equivalent to about 65 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

As for debt servicing, it amounted to $800 million last year, equivalent to 22 percent of total budget expenditure. Moreover, it was virtually equivalent to the country's 1985 oil earnings.

Corrective measures

Among the targets of the 1986 budget (announced last December) were the following:

— An 11 percent increase in non-oil exports, aimed at compensating for the losses incurred as a result of lower oil revenues;

— A shift from capital- to labour-intensive projects as a means of alleviating the unemployment problem which became especially acute after the expulsion of some 30,000 Tunisians from Libya last year;

— A reduction by 12 percent on the allocations for ailing public-sector industries (such allocations ate up TD 355 million in 1985).

However, as major problems were ensuing from the trade deficit (which reached TD 1.11 billion in 1984), the Tunisian government imposed last year (before the announcement of the 1986 budget) restrictions on imports. Imports of machinery and equipment were worth TD 237 million ($315 million) in 1985, a drop of 37 percent compared to 1984. Total imports in dinars declined by 15 percent, from TD 2.51 million in 1984 to TD 2.13 million in 1985.

In the case of exports, the change observed was comparatively small, as they increased in dinars and decreased in dollars. This disparity was the outcome of what was described as a 'discreet' devaluation of the dinar by about 10 percent last autumn. The sizeable drop in imports allowed for the trade deficit to be reduced from TD 1.11 billion in 1984 to TD 696 million in 1985.

Restrictions on machinery imports — necessary for the country's economic development (especially in the field of infastructure) — did not prove to be an ideal solution. The trade deficit declined, but so did Tunisia's economic growth rate. From 8 percent in the 1970s, the GDP growth rate dropped to 4.5 percent in 1985 and is unlikely to be much above the 2 percent level this year. It was, therefore, expected that the government would consider the introduction of more 'rational' measures.

It was probably such measures that President Bourguiba had in mind when he told the congress of his Socialist Destour Party last June that a new austerity package would be outlined at the end of July. Some insight into the measures considered was provided by a document presented to the Tunisian cabinet in June.

According to unconfirmed reports from Tunis, among the document's major points were the following:

— drastic cutbacks on imports retard economic development;
— measures should be adopted to ensure that the growth in consumption is not disproportionally high compared to GDP growth;
— state expenditure should decline from its present 25 percent of GDP to 21 percent by 1991;
— there will have to be cutbacks on subsidies on a variety of products such as milk, cooking oil, sugar, bread and pasta.

The difficulty is that removal of subsidies which keep prices of basic foodstuffs low and accessible to the bulk of the population, could generate serious socio -political problems. An attempt to remove an annual subsidy of TD 100 million on basic foodstuffs such as bread and wheat products in January 1984 pushed prices up by as much as 125 percent. Mass riots followed, resulting in the removal of then Interior Minister Driss Guiga from office and President Bourguiba's orderering of the restoration of subsidies. Some observers speculate that Mohammed Mzali's recent dismissal may have had some relation with the fact that he was prime minister at the time of the 1984 riots.

It now remains to be seen what the new prime minister is going to do to get Tunisia's economy back to shape. His task can be very difficult and options available fairly restrained. In fact if any of the drastic measures recommended by domestic or foreign sources are adopted, price rises will be almost inevitable.

The IMF's prescription for Tunisia has been the classical one: reduce or remove subsidies, introduce currency devaluation (the IMF believes that last autumn's devaluation was not sufficient). Any one or both of these suggestions cannot but imply price rises. Tunisians may therefore be in for belt-tightening and their government for further social unrest.

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SONS OF TOP OFFICIALS ATTEND MILITARY TRAINING COURSES

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 16-22 Aug 86 pp 64 - 65

[Article: "The Leaders' Sons in the Vanguard of the Fighting Men"]

[Text] One thousand Iraqi university students and professors enrolled last 22 June in the context of their weapons training at military training camps and have filled the training grounds and fields. The sons of Iraqi officials at the highest rung of party and government leadership responsibilities have enrolled along with them as well, without exception or discrimination.

There is no difference between Zayd and 'Amr on the training fields except in terms of self-sacrifice and absolute loyalty to Iraq. Therefore, the sons of Iraqi officials have stood beside their student colleagues, receiving training lessons and military work, night and day, sleeping in the same halls and wings which the military formations responsible for them have prepared, all eating at a single plate, standing under the same sun and exposed to the same July heat, which increases strength of personality, adds to its identity in terms of coherence and makes it qualified for tasks of education and self-protection, as President Saddam Husayn described it in his visit to a training center recently.

Qusayy, the son of President Saddam Husayn, stands in the front lines of the students covered by the training decree. Also standing with him at another center is Ziyad, the son of the secretary general of the Ba'th Party, Mr Michel 'Aflaq, and alongside him, in other rows of students, stands the brother of the Iraqi minister of defense, 1st Staff Lt Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah. Ziyad, the son of Tariq 'Aziz, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Mazin 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, [son of] the minister of state for military affairs, Mus'ib the son of 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, dirctor of the political guidance department in the Ministry of Defense, and many others besides them are also standing alertly and enthusiastically in equal training positions, with a profound understanding of the importance of a youthful educational experience which the Iraqi leadership has decreed as part of a comprehensive strategy for confronting the exceptions and surprises of war.

In the training centers deployed all over the country, the military training curricula for the students and their professors are continuing with a

precision and total discipline which are subject to the spirit and laws of military life. In the far reaches of a world which functions at special tempos, with a particular performance, we had to seek out the sons of Iraqi officials and snatch them from the long lines stretched around and about. It is not an exaggeration to say that finding one of them among the thousands who are wearing khaki and bearing rifles or among the others besides them who are running forward or falling in lines of precise, lengthy formation seems a stroke of fantasy.

Everything there proceeds with precision -- the lectures, the training classes, the pace of life, the intellectual concentration in grasping the subjects of field military lessons.

In one of the groups or detachments spread about in the training center for a number of Baghdad University faculties, we pressed through the search for Ziyad Michel 'Aflaq, whom we later learned had become enrolled in the group which includes Qusayy Saddam Husayn.

On the importance of the students' enlisting in the training fields, Ziyad said:

"This is to be considered a pioneering experiment in its goals and contents. Although I am not subject to participation in it, because the rules stress that only Iraqi students are to be covered by it, I enrolled in the camp because of my awareness of its educational and combative importance and in order to acquire some useful military sciences alongside my student brothers and comrades. It is a great opportunity for us to engage in the manly life in one of its aspects here. We have succeeded in overcoming harsh conditions in the camp. There is no doubt that I am confident of the great successes and victories that await us as long as we are still strong."

Ziyad Michel 'Aflaq added,

"In his speech to us, President Saddam Husayn asserted that there is no difference between the sons of officials and other students on the training fields. We will try to give substance to the truth of that in practice in this field. There is another important fact, which is that no matter what effort we have exerted now, it still constitutes a small share compared with what our comrades and brothers in arms who have been standing in the front lines to confront the Iranian aggression for 6 years have been offering."

In another group was the student Ziyad Tariq 'Aziz, who is pursuing training with his colleagues and learning the martial arts and ways of coping with the hard life. We met with him, and he said:

"I am happy to be participating in an educational experience through which the human condition for building the personality is completed, especially now that we have excelled in the area of research and scientific study.

"Our receptivity to training is extensive and arises from our faith as young people in its importance and our pride in the rich experience, on whose pages we are learning new lessons every day. We have also been happy with

the visit President Saddam Husayn has made to our camp. It is one of the aspects of his concern, his personal attention to the experiment and his care that it be integrated and that the ingredients of its success be fully provided."

Ziyad Tariq 'Aziz embarked on a deeper experience before that when he participated five times in military missions and activities on the battlefronts. Mazin 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal may have had experiences similar to his. He said,

"I am the son of a military man who has assumed many military missions and responsibilities. It was natural that the spirit of military life should cast its shadow in the family circle; we are proud of this and cherish it. As far as I am concerned, I performed compulsory service in the army twice and worked as a surgeon outside the training context in the Faculty of Medicine, specifically in the al-Rashid military hospital. As regards the experience of training students and their professors, that yields positive results not just in the military context but also in the context of the training process in general. I consider that military life is an integrated state which cannot be compartmentalized and cannot be abandoned. I commit myself to it in a way which I embody before others with the desired spirit, conduct and control."

At another camp we met Mus'ib 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, student at the Technological University. He dealt with an aspect of the importance of training by saying,

"The country's present circumstances require special preparation on the part of the young people of Iraq. That is, we should possess added ability which will turn us into a group that can face the future with a steady spirit, bright intelligence and powerful strength.

"There is no doubt that an experiment of this kind cannot be considered a personal one or one which concerns a specific sector. Rather, it is a comprehensive national experiment, one which will turn the young men of Iraq into a strong shield for confronting every circumstance and a trained force which possesses all the characteristics of resistance and combat preparedness. In the military training camp, we have felt that this process is a responsibility which must be borne and in whose particulars and various elements excellence must be attained, as excellence is attained in the study and research halls and laboratories. There is no difference."

Among the Iraqi officials' sons enrolled in the training camps are also the students Kifah the son of Nadim al-Yasin, director of protocol at the office of the presidency, and Law'i, brother of the Iraqi minister of defense. They are both engaged in training enthusiastically and energetically and are interacting with the facts of the experience with a self-discipline that stresses what President Saddam Husayn concluded in his directives on this subject.

We said goodbye to the last training center, but the picture of equality and the state of the new construction of the Iraqi man, who has come to realize

that responsibility is an honor and not profit or rank by which the official or his sons view others from above or exercise power without qualm or deterrence, remained in our imagination.

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'POPULAR ARMY' PROFILED, ROLE EXAMINED

Amman AL-AQSA in Arabic Aug 86 pp 12-15

[Article by Major General 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abdallah al-Khalayilah, member of Joint Chiefs of Staff]

[Text] The preparations made by the state to change from a state of peace to a state of war or semi-war, or when faced with natural disasters, are not aimed solely at calling up the reserve forces to join the armed forces; rather they also are aimed at transforming the state's capabilities and employing its facilities to provide all the means and possibilities needed by the armed forces to perform their task with a high degree of efficiency. That is because being ready to face and resist the enemy under the given circumstances of modern warfare is no longer limited to the military establishment alone, for all have to be ready and to resist.

The time has passed when the armed forces fought the enemy while the people watched.

Perhaps the decision by our wise leaders to begin training all the people came as a fulfillment of the wishes of the people themselves; to fortify them against the challenges and threats faced by the Arab nation in general and our dear Jordan in particular.

Formation of the Popular Army

Our wise leaders gave special importance to the question of forming a popular army, taking advantage of the experiences of other states that had made great strides in forming their popular armies and using them in some wars, especially the experiences of the United States, Europe, England, and some of the Arab experiences. Nor did they ignore Jordan's past experience, inasmuch as they eradicated the mistakes and omissions that had accompanied it, taking into consideration the fulfillment of the urgent desire of the Jordanian people to be trained to bear arms so that they could take part along with their sons and brothers, members of the intrepid armed forces, in strengthening the interior front, so as to make Jordan a solid fortress upon which the will of the enemy would be broken and to sharpen their desire to take part in liberating the stolen land.

The decision to establish a popular army was made in 1982, and from then on until August 1985 this decision was developed and formulated until it was finalized.

With the onset of August 1985, the start of training the people of al-Balqa Governorate was the first step in training the popular army in the kingdom. It was followed by Irbid Governorate and the by al-Mafraq Governorate, and this will go on until there is training in all of the kingdom's governorates, which will be in the near future, God willing.

The 10th Parliament passed the popular army law during its first session, and thus the law came into effect after all preparations had been completed for training all who are able to bear arms. This army will be a backup for the Arab army.

Speaking to members of parliament in 1985, his majesty the supreme commander said in his speech inaugurating the second regular session:

"Also, it is with great satisfaction that I note that my government has begun to implement the popular army law that your noble parliament enacted during its past session, beginning with al-Balqa Governorate. We are working hard to expand its scope and to ensure that its needs are met until it exists throughout the whole country, so that Jordan will become a nation that is armed to the teeth and a fortress beneath which all enemy plans will be crushed."

Popular Army Experiment in Jordan

The Popular Army experiment in Jordan is a living embodiment of the belief of our wise leaders in the need for, and the importance of, mobilizing the human resources of the Jordanian people in an integrated way to ensure a permanent backup for our armed forces, which stand as one against the enemies of the Arab nation.

Just as the Popular Army experiment was not detached from the experiences of other peoples, neither was it detached from past experiences, especially since Jordan has previously tried to exploit its human resources, as in the National Guard in 1950, the popular resistance in 1960, and the Popular Army from 1970 to 1973.

So that this experience might remain more pertinent and deep-rooted, all of the omissions and negative aspects that accompanied it were studied.

The Popular Army experiment was not born of the decision issued in 1982; rather it came as a result of the birthpangs of the previous experiments and as a result of the deep, detailed studies that took into consideration all circumstances, factors, and motives and the necessity of forming such an army. It also took into account the tasks and duties in which it ought to be proficient.

When the Popular Army was formed, several things were taken into consideration, including:

1. Jordan's political, geographic, demographic, and economic circumstances.

2. Exploitation of the human resources in the kingdom under various circumstances.

3. Collective participation in lightening the burdens of war and its aftermath, and of natural disasters and what arises from them.

4. Laying part of the burdens of the armed forces on the shoulders of the Popular Army in rear positions so as to free them for their principal duties.

Citizens and the Popular Army

The concept of a popular army has seized the imaginations of all Jordanians throughout their various levels, especially since the demonstrated success of the service in recruiting the youthful group, most of whom are graduates of universities, institutes of higher learning, and high schools, this at a time when the other groups did not have an opportunity to take part in the defense of the nation except through the regular armed forces, even though it was agreed that every citizen was a participant in the defense of his nation and its possessions through his job position.

However, the prevailing belief among our Jordanian citizens is that the ultimate in patriotic participation comes through the gun.

Therefore, the concept of the Popular Army came about to meet the demands of all classes of the broad Jordanian populace, distributing patriotic tasks fairly among all without distinction. This will give all citizens, no matter how different their circumstances, a single level of responsibility in the event that the country is exposed to any danger of aggression, or to the destruction of public and private effects that usually occurs as a result of war, or to the disruption of various activities and services in the areas of water, electricity, and food supply, this in addition to the terrible casualties occurring among the citizens as a result of the country's exposure to destruction and epidemics.

Training in the Popular Army

The importance to the nation of comprehensive training in military matters comes here as a requirement for preparing the citizens well for diverse fighting duties, and it demands that they be taken from a life of ease to a harsh one. Hard training in the bearing of arms impels the citizens to do strenuous jobs that they used not to do in their daily activities, and it makes them stronger and more able to bear hardship, hardens their wills, and uncovers their personal capabilities.

Moreover, when the people are incorporated into the ranks of the fighters of the Popular Army, and when all the sons of the nation are included in training

in bearing arms and other matters, all the sons of the people will have graduated from a single national school, which is the training camp. There everybody, regardless of differences in education and intellectual affiliations, receives the same education that ensures a way of thought for future generations, a unity of concepts, starting points, and goals, and a common awareness of the issues facing the society and the nation. This is in addition to all sorts of social interaction between members of the Popular Army which is brought about by military training and which builds all sorts of friendships between them based on mutual respect and a common feeling towards a single goal and fate.

Training Programs

The Popular Army includes among its ranks all the nation's citizens with all their various lifestyles and social, educational, and intellectual situations. This requires that training programs be set up that are appropriate to these differences, taking into consideration the following:

1. That the training first of all should not become a burden on the national economy, and that it should not negatively affect the public and private sectors. Therefore, training programs are to take place without threatening these sectors with production stoppages in order to free them for training affairs.

2. That the training should not have a negative effect on our educational courses so that students in the second secondary are being trained, while those in the third secondary are not, because they need time to study for the general secondary exam. Also, training does not include first-year university students, since this group of students also has an academic burden that differs from that of the other groups at the other stages.

3. That training should include, in addition to training in various weapons, patriotic directives and collective participation in mitigating the effects of wars and natural disasters on the nation.

All this we have set up as extended training programs. In them we have concentrated on building proficiency in the use of individual arms in particular, in addition to proficiency in field skills, in fighting in built-up and wooded areas and in destroying tanks, and in individual skills in civil defense tasks such as rescue and first aid, in extinguishing various kinds of fires, and in using local facilities in order to limit the capabilities of an enemy and stop him and prevent him from entering our cities and towns.

Young Women in the Popular Army

Since the young woman is no different from the young man, and since she is no less important, a training program has been set up especially for young women that suits the tasks in the Popular Army which are given to them. These include training in light arms and civil defense jobs, especially those relating to nursing and treating the wounded.

We began training the young women at the same time that we began training the young men in al-Balqa and Irbid. We have not encountered any difficulties or obstacles to the training operation, since the training takes place in school yards under the supervision of women teachers.

Some teachers and young women in the governorates of al-Balqa and Irbid, who are not included under the articles of the law, have volunteered for the Popular Army, especially since the women's training covers female students, both in high school and in the institutes and universities. At the same time, the law allowed every Jordanian woman who was not a student to volunteer for service in the Popular Army as long as she is more than 16 years of age and less than 40.

This month, as we celebrate the passage of 1 year since the training of members of the Popular Army began, there is nothing for me to say other than to mention in all honesty that the thousands of citizens joining up and coming for training and arms bearing is nothing but an affirmation of the strong bond that binds the citizen to his nation and his leader, and it is a necessary expression of the extent to which the Jordanian people stick together, and of the complete interaction between the people and their wise leaders, and of the extent of absolute, mutual trust between the leader and the people.

Furthermore, it is a blessed and fortunate step, which Jordan took sensing in it a national and ethnic duty, and it is a belief in which the Jordanian embodies the beauty of giving and the pride of belonging that expresses sincerity in speech and action. This giant step would turn Jordan, as its commander al-Husayn wishes, into a people armed to the teeth and a fortress under which all plots of the enemy are crushed, one of the proud Arab fortresses of the nation, whose sons do everything they can to make their experience a successful one and an example of present preparedness and future hope.

12547/12859
CSO: 4404/509

KING FAHD NAVAL ACADEMY DESCRIBED

Riyadh AL-DIFA' in Arabic Apr 86 pp 98-106

[Article: "AL-DIFA's Lens Focuses on the King Fahd Naval Academy; Our Most Modern Armed Forces College with the Most Modern System; One Attack by Sea Equals 10 by Land"]

[Text] The Sea in Arab Islamic Civilization

The Arab sailor in the pre-Islamic era shared a great deal with his counterparts in other countries in the maritime area. Evidence for that is that the Arabic language of that era is full of foreign-origin words that were derived from Latin, Greek, or Persian. Ancient Arabic poetry is repleat with them. Among their names for boats were al-falak [sloop], busi, 'aduli, khalya, and al-jari [vessel]. In the Holy Qur'an there is a guide for living our lives. God, may He be praised and exalted, tells us that He has blessed man and borne him upon the sea, just as He has borne him on the land, making use of the boats [falak], traveling by His command. He says:

"We have blessed the sons of Adam and borne him on land and sea."

"And He has made the ships subject to you that they may sail through the sea at His command."

Indeed, scores of verses include mention of the sea and ships. The word "sea" and its derivatives appear 40 times in God's book. Then there follows:

"One attack by sea equals 10 by land."

This is to illustrate the need to give attention to controlling our waters and the great merit in being able to patrol them. Our Muslim ancestors set out on and rode the seas and, with God's permission, made use of them in the service of Islam, in order to raise the banner of Islam in Andalusia in the west and at the borders of China and the Philippines in the east. A historian said: "If you peel the skin of a Spaniard today you would find an Islamic one underneath."

Dimensions of Our Kingdom's Military Policy

God, may He be praised and exalted, gave our kingdom the gift of peace and security after the gift of Islam. And the gift of limitless wealth in all domains comes from that of peace and security. Indeed the Falcon of the Peninsula, the late King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God let him rest in peace, bore the banner of unifying the Arabian Peninsula under the motto, "There is no god but God and Muhammad is His Prophet." And strengthened by friendship, harmony, and wisdom, His children bear that manner high in his absence and it rises higher with every rising of the sun. God was merciful to them all and sheltered them within His soul until it reached the leader of our destiny, His Majesty, King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, God extend his life by His providence and strengthen his brother the crown prince, Prince 'Abdallah, as they together have directed their protection and support to all domains.

Among the areas that have been favored with complete support and attention is that of the armed forces. His royal highness, Prince Sultan bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, has stressed frequently that the commander in chief of the armed forces and his crown prince want to develop the armed forces and especially its basic human elements, which represent the essential foundation for building the armed forced.

His majesty dealt with the matter on a fortuitous occasion by saying: "We can see what progress our country has made day after day and, whenever we look at the military sector we see that it has achieved rapid development, inasmuch as the levels of university and non-university study in various specialties have risen." His majesty emphasized the dignity of serving in the military, saying: "It is an honor for every citizen to serve his country in the military." Then he called upon our blessed people with the call of the wise father: "Work, for the opportunity to rebuild your civilization has arrived and when it passes it will never return."

Why the King Fahd Naval Academy?

In addition to the honor of place and the pioneering role that our kingdom plays with respect to the Islamic world with its commitment to applying Islamic law in all its policies and its commitment to the traditions, pacts, agreements, and international laws that are issued by the councils of the international community, such as the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization, God has given the kingdom a favored position from a strategic standpoint between East and West. It extends over a vast area, equaling 75 percent of the Arabian peninsula, and shares a border with eight countries. The kingdom has a long coastline of 2,410 km along the Red Sea in the west and 610 km on the Arabian Gulf in the east.

If we add to that the economic importance of the kingdom internationally and the outbreak of fevered conflicts all around us here, and the fact that the impregnable walls make our neighbors friendly and that guaranteeing the kingdom's control of the sea, which is a fundamental pillar in safeguarding and maintaining its security and the effectiveness of its defense, is a vital guarantee for continuing the pace of economic, social, and cultural development in general, therefore with all these and

other considerations, the wisdom of our leaders judged that it is necessary to build a highly effective navy capable of assuming its responsibility within the framework of the other military branches.

Our leadership has hastened to send hundreds of our young men to several friendly countries for maritime studies in colleges, institutes, and special schools. And at the same time it began to build a naval fleet, striving in its construction for the most modern of military science and technology available in the maritime area so that it will be able to confront any kind of surface, air, or undersea attacks. the navy reached, thanks be to God, with continuing support and wise direction a level where it is possible to rely on the abilities and competence of its own men in the areas of education and training at all levels.

Building efforts in this area were crowned with the issuing by the venerable Council of Ministers of Resolution No 198 on 6 Rajab 1403 AH [April 1983] for the establishment of the King Fahd Naval Academy and applied the military academies law deriving from Royal Decree No 50/m of 13 Rajab 1397 AH [July 1977]. Efforts of men united in solidarity were begun in order to prepare for this amazing educational accomplishment.

Decree No 537 dated 3 Rabi' al-Thani 1405 AH [26 December 1984] was issued under the authorization of His Majesty, King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, prime minister, to build the academy, fix its permanent location, and support it with funds from all the necessary budgets.

When the preparations were concluded his royal highness, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, decreed that study at the King Fahd Naval Academy would commence during the 1405-06 academic year so that it might undertake its vital role in completing the building of the structure of the navy at a level worthy of credit and the lofty position of our kingdom through the production of capable men, with God's strength and the great power of determination to achieve the hope of their country for its defense and to expend what is dear and costly for the sake of Islam, the king, and the nation.

The Academy and the Gulf Cooperation Council Nations

With respect to the role of the academy vis-a-vis the Gulf Cooperation Council, it will accept a number of students from each of the countries at the beginning of every year, according to the acceptance standards that the academy has established, in addition to what those sister nations require of its military students, starting with the 1406-07 [1986-87] academic year, as followed by the other military academies.

When Did Study Begin?

The academy accepted the first group of students from Saudi Arabia on 29 Dhu al-Hijjah 1405 [14 September 1985] and classes began, praise God, during the 1405-06 academic year.

Motto of Academy Is: Faith, Allegiance, Sacrifice

Our faith in God guides our path. Our allegiance in word and deed is a principle from which we will never deviate at any time. Our sacrifice to Islam, then king and country, is a matter absolutely not open to doubt under any circumstance, as all have commited themselves to it.

Conditions for Acceptance into Academy

A number of conditions are imposed for accepting students into the academy. They include examining the students from the best stocks. These conditions are:

1. That he be of Saudi origin and place of birth according to the law.

2. That he be no younger than 17 years of age and no older than 24, according to the student's or his father's identity card.

3. That he be in possession of a general secondary-level degree or equivalent with at least a very good grade average. Graduates of the current academic year are preferred.

4. That he be unmarried.

5. That he be of good character and reputation and never convicted of a crime or moral offense or expelled from any military college or institute for any reason.

6. That he pass the acceptance exams in accordance with the medical standards stipulated by the decree.

7. That he pass the acceptance exams in English, mathematics, physics, and Arabic.

8. That he pass a personal interview conducted by the academy.

9. That his grades in mathematics, physics, and English not be less than very good. Those with the highest grades in these subjects are preferred.

10. That he maintain a high physical standard.

11. That he do well in swimming and another sport.

12. That he pass the physical fitness exams that the academy gives the applicants.

13. That he be facile in speech and able to express himself in encounters with others.

14. That the academy advise those willing to join it to pursue some physical exercises several days before taking the exams in order that his body be strong and flexible.

Term of Study at the Academy

As the King Fahd Naval Academy is one of the military academies that has adopted the military academy system, and as this system requires that the term of study in the academy be 3 years, the term of study at the academy is divided into three stages: preparatory, intermediate, and final. The academic year in turn is divided into two parts or semesters of about 15 weeks long.

Academic Subjects

In order to accompany the rapid pace of scientific and technological development in the scientific domain in general and in the military in particular, and in the maritime sphere more specifically, it was necessary for the academy to set up a policy whereby the students can interact effectively with the many educational facilities in all the naval vessels and their schools, scientific resources, and materials. On that basis, appropriate courses have been prepared in the basic sciences, military and academic, updating them on a continuous basis. This is in addition to a complete academic program focused on the area of Islamic studies and culture. Academic subjects at the academy are as follows:

1. Islamic culture and history
2. Infantry and small arms training
3. Internal structure of the armed forces
4. English
5. Mathematics
6. General science
7. Physics
8. Chemistry
9. Astronomy and Oceanography
10. Naval weaponry and its various classes
11. Navigation by sky and land
12. Maritime technology--theoretical and practical
13. Leadership
14. Nuclear, chemical, and germ warfare defense
15. Computer science
16. Naval engineering
17. Electronics
18. Naval tactics

The students' daily routine begins at dawn and proceeds as follows:

0430	Reveille
0450	Morning prayers
0515-0600	Morning physical exercise
0625-0645	Breakfast
0700-0745	First lecture
0750-0815	Salute to the flag
0830-0905	Second lecture
0910-0955	Third lecture
0955-1015	Break
1020-1105	Fourth lecture
1110-1155	Fifth lecture

1200-1225	Noon prayers
1230-1315	Sixth lecture
1330-1355	Lunch
1400-1445	Additional file/administrative matters
1455-1525	Midday prayers
1530-1630	Athletic activities
1635-1700	Administrative matters
1705-1725	Lowering the flag dusk prayers
1730-1745	Rest
1750-1815	Evening cleanup and inspection
1825-1850	Dinner
1855-1910	Evening prayers
1920-2110	Class notes
2130	Sleep

Equipment and Laboratories

The academy has been equipped with the most technically advanced training aids, equipment, and laboratories. Likewise, a well-stocked library has been furnished with all the educational resources that would be of use in the maritime area, as well as books, studies, and scientific journals. Also, a spacious training room was built that includes models of various ships in which the students are trained in guiding the vessels from one place to another.

Athletic Activity

The academy has undertaken to provide competent athletic instructors and has instituted a program to raise the level of physical fitness among the students through various physical exercises and has prepared the playing fields and the necessary plans for the students to pursue various sports like soccer, basketball, table tennis, games of strength, cross-country running, and swimming. An academy team also participates in competitions and games in various sports.

Cultural Activities

The academy wanted to devote attention to the cultural sphere, so it furnished its library with many books on literature, history, Quranic commentary, the traditions, and original texts containing our Arab and Islamic heritage. It also established a definite plan to invite the instructors, university professors, and specialists in the area of Islam, history, and literature to deliver their lectures at a level appropriate to the educational level of the students.

Material Benefits

The academy offers many material benefits to its students such as:

1. Meals according to a menu prepared by specialists in order to build strong, healthy bodies.

2. Summer and winter military uniforms as well as athletic clothes and underclothing.

3. Guaranteed free medical care for the student and the legal provider of the family, if one exists.

4. A monthly salary of 2,831 riyals per student during his period of study.

5. The granting of one ticket a year to each student to travel to and from his country of origin.

Leave

The student is granted the following leave:

1. End-of-the-year leave, lasting about 45 days.

2. Mid-year leave, lasting about 14 days.

3. Leave for official holidays if they fall during the school year.

Goals of the Academy

Finally, the goal of the academy is to graduate naval officers capable of executing the missions with which they are entrusted in the navy and coast guard or, in any sister nation, of undertaking to teach its men and to pursue the path of the Muslim soldier and what it requires in the way of obedience, patience, and endurance.

The academy also aims to raise the level of physical fitness and military training to the highest levels. It also aims at personal leadership development along with teaching the student all the maritime sciences that are related to his life and work and the desire to develop the spirit of allegiance and fidelity to Islam, king, and country.

Rank and Qualifications

The student is graduated at the end of his third year with the rank of ensign and is qualified as a naval officer in navy or coast guard units. The graduate is awarded a baccalauriate degree in military and naval science. This degree qualifies him to register for higher studies within the country or abroad in pursuit of his academic preparedness and, in accordance with the requirements of the naval forces, it also qualifies him for the command and staff college after fulfilling the conditions that have been laid down.

9614/12781
CSO: 4404/452

EASTERN REGION CONTRACTORS EXPECT GOOD BUSINESS WITH CAUSEWAY

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Jul 86 p 5

[Article: "Saudi Contractors with Strong Capabilities Will Enter into Bidding for Bahrain Projects After Opening of Causeway"]

[Text] Gulf economic officials have expressed their belief that the causeway that will connect Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not be a cause of any significant changes in the contracting sphere. Yet the Saudi Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce, in an analysis of the economic returns from the causeway, stated that it is expected that some of the Saudi contracting firms with vast operational capabilities will enter into bidding for contracts in Bahrain and will win contracts to carry out projects.

These officials cite as reasons for this tendency the lower labor costs in Bahrain, the lack of bearing social insurance expenses for foreign labor as there is in Saudi Arabia, the ease of supervising projects in Bahrain and transporting equipment and commodities across the causeway, the ease of financing from the banks in Bahrain at a time when the banks operating in the kingdom tend toward strictness in granting facilities to contractors, and the great number of companies working in the contracting sector in the Eastern Province. The study clarified that this region leads the regions of the kingdom in the number of firms. The number of establishments in the contracting sector reached 1,074, representing 34 percent of the total number of firms in the kingdom.

On the other hand, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bahrain sees, in a study it recently published, that the volume of work in the contracting sector in the Bahrain market has dwindled during the last years as a result in the drop in the size and number of investment projects that are being carried out in the various sectors of the national economy, which has doubtless harmed the national contracting sector.

The Bahraini Chamber said: the volume of the construction work is no longer of the size that permits that the local contractors to find an appropriate volume to allow them to continue in the market, especially since the contracting market could be saturated with a large number of contractors who work in different construction specialties. This has brought the element of competition to the market, until it might have harmful effects on this sector, especially when the total construction work in the market is very little.

Departing from these ideas, some Bahraini contractors see that the entry of the Saudi contractors with large operational capabilities in the Bahraini market, and their obtaining contracts to carry out projects, will increase the extremity of the conditions that the contractors in Bahrain are suffering, especially the stiff foreign competition the national contractors in Bahrain are presently suffering from foreign contractors, who enjoy presently, according to a calculation carried out by the contracting committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce, approximately 80 percent of the volume of work in the market. Yet there are other contractors who see that the causeway will help to expand the work of the Bahraini contractors in various spheres of contracting work. Likewise, it will help to create opportunities to form joint companies after the building of the bridge that will enable them to enter into large projects and to compete with the foreign companies in the two countries. Many of the contractors in both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia believe that this is one of the most important of the needed solutions, because it encourages Arab contracting, in other words the uniting in the form of big companies capable of competing with the foreign companies. Yet the other group of cautious or fearful contractors believes that if that is realized, the primary benefactor will be the big contracting companies in Bahrain and that certain harm will befall the contracting sector, specifically the small contractors.

Pertaining to the causeway's effect on the real estate market in the two countries, some of the owners of the real estate companies in Bahrain believe that the effect will be certain. They say that the demand on the Bahraini real estate market will increase as a result of some of the Saudi investors staying, making Manama an administrative center for their work there. This will raise the price of land and residential rents. The signs of that have begun to be seen in the rise of rents and the cost of buildings and land near to the causeway construction site.

These developments, and many others that will make up the expected effects of the causeway thatare discussed, are not only in the sphere of contracting and real estate but in all aspects of life. Many of these are expressed in fears, especially by the merchants in Bahrain. Perhaps this was the reason for the call of the minister of development and industry and cabinet affairs, His Excellency Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, who called upon the Bahraini merchants more than once to sacrifice some of their profit margins to lessen the price differences between the two countries. There is an opinion that the feelings of the merchants' fear of the unknown is widespread. Yet there is another opinion that the fears will subside when these merchants realize the volume of the market open to them to enter and the opportunities for work given to them.

These are opinions being discussed. They will remain opinions, except that is certain in all cases that the causeway that will tie Bahrain to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be a great cultural achievement that will deepen the ties of continuity and proximity between the peoples of the Gulf in general. It will have a positive role that will enable the sons of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the long term to continue to develop opportunities in all the quantities of economic, social, and political life.

13013/12859
CSO: 4404/510

NEW ELECTRICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS DESCRIBED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 18 Jun 86 p 7

[Article by Muhammad Zurayqa: "The Implementation of Communications, Electric Power Network, and Decorative Lighting Projects Throughout the Nation's Provinces"]

[Text] The General Communications and Electricity Works Company is considered to be one of the specialized companies that was created in order to implement projects involving the conveyance and distribution of both underground and aboveground electric power lines, the construction and installation of the networks and apparatuses used for wire and wireless communications, and all the works and installations which are within the company's area of competence. Eng Marwan al-Ras, the assistant general manager of the firm, says that the company is the only one in the whole country which operates in this field. He also said that the company has the following branches--(1) the Damascus branch, which undertakes the implementation of the projects in the Provinces of Dar'a, al-Suwayda', Damascus, and al-Qunaytirah, (2) the first production branch in Damascus, (3) the electric lighting branch in Damascus, (4) the Damascus International Airport maintenance branch, (5) the central area branch, which has been given the job of implementing the installations to be set up in the Provinces of Hims, Hamah, and Tartus, (6) the northern area branch, which has been given the job of implementing the installations to be set up in the Provinces of Halab, Idlib, and al-Ladhiqiyah, and (7) the eastern area branch, which has been given the job of implementing the installations to be set up in the Provinces of Dayr al-Zawr, al-Raqqah, and al-Hasakah.

Implementation of the Projects Using Syrian Experts

One of the largest electrical projects which the company is implementing right now is the 157-kilometer-long 400-kilovolt high-tension line between the

cities of Hamah and Halab. At the present time they are working on pouring concrete for the bases of the electric power line poles, During the latter part of last year they began to assemble the power line poles, each one of which weighs between 11 and 35 tons apiece. It is expected that the work being done for this project will be completed next year. The power line will be linked to Turkey and to neighboring nations in accordance with a plan decided upon by the government. The amount of money spent on the project totals 53 million Syrian pounds.

The company had already implemented the 400-kilovolt high-tension power line between Hamah and 'Adra which passes through the Fayruzah station.

This is considered to be one of the largest power lines in the whole country, and it is equaled only by very few high-tension power lines in the entire Middle East.

The power line was constructed and put up using only Syrian labor and expertise. Furthermore, this project involved the use of--for the first time in Syria--a new technical method of putting up power lines which is known as putting the power lines up by having them drawn tight, that is, "the cables are extended without touching the ground." This method of putting up the power lines helped to save both time and effort on the part of the workers. This method so far has been utilized in only a few countries.

At the present time this power line is being utilized to convey electric power to the southern provinces of Damascus, Dar'a, al-Suwayda', and al-Qunaytirah. After the power line was put into operation, the electricity situation improved and, to a certain degree, there was a decrease in electrical power loss. The line conveys 350 megawatts from the 230-kilovolt power lines and 800 megawatts from the 400-kilovolt power lines. The cost of this project was 130 million Syrian pounds.

Implementation of a Double Circuit Line

Work is also going on right now on the implementation of the 90-kilometer-long 230-kilovolt high-tension line between the cities of Hamah and Baniyas. This is the first double circuit power line that has been put up in Syria. At the present time the company is engaging in the operations of digging and pouring the concrete for the bases of the power line poles and also has started assembling them. Work on this project will be ending during the latter part of next year. The objective of implementing this project is to link the electric power lines of the coastal area with the general power line network in the interior of the country as well as with the transformer and power supply stations. The cost of the project amounts to 33,330,000 Syrian pounds.

What Is the Company Implementing This Year?

During the current year the company is implementing a number of electric projects in the nation's various provinces in addition to putting up two high-tension power lines, one of which will be a 400-kilovolt high-tension

power line. The cost of these projects will be 180 million Syrian pounds, that is, 30 million Syrian pounds more than the projects which the company implemented last year. The most important of these projects which are currently being implemented are the following--(1) electric lighting and power installations in the port of al-Ladhiqiyah, (2) electric lighting and power installations in the port of Tartus, (2) maintenance of the electric power installations in the Damascus International Airport, (4) maintenance of the public electric lighting system in the city of al-Ladhiqiyah, (5) maintenance of the public electric lighting system in the city of Hims, (6) maintenance of the public electric lighting system in the city of Tartus, (7) various electric lighting installations in the city of Halab, (8) electric lighting of the Damascus citadel market place and the Umayyad Mosque as well as a decorative electric lighting system for archaeological sites, and (9) electric lighting installations for al-Hasakah and the rural areas of the Province of al-Hasakah.

Telephone System Projects

The following telephone system projects are also being implemented--(1) the project involving expanding the telephone system of the city of Damascus, (2) expansion of the telephone inspection chambers in the city of Damascus, (3) the outside telephone lines of the People's Palace and Tishrin Palace, (4) the inside telephone lines of the People's Palace and extension of this system, (5) a telephone system for the village of Sirghaya, (6) a telephone system project for the city of al-Bab, (7) a telephone system project for the city of al-Ladhiqiyah, (8) a telephone system project for the city of Halab, (9) a telephone switchboard system project for the city of Idlib, (10) a telephone system project for the city of al-Raqqah, (11) a telephone system project for Ra's al-'Ayn, (12) installation of the telephone lines and concrete telephone poles in the city of al-Raqqah, (13) a telephone system for the village of al-Karamah in the Province of Dayr al-Zawr, and (14) a telephone system for the city of Dayr al-Zawr.

All this is in addition to iron manufacturing works such as the manufacture of (krnfatat) and metal paneling as well as the production of electric lighting poles, at a cost of 3 million Syrian pounds. Furthermore, 20-kilovolt medium-tension power lines are being set up between the transformer stations in order that electric power be maintained and consolidated.

During the last few years the company has implemented a number of large-scale projects, including the following--(1) the 230-kilovolt high-tension power line between Halab and Idlib, (2) the 230-kilovolt high-tension power line between al-Thawrah, Fayruzah, and Qattinah, (3) the 230-kilovolt high-tension power line between Dayr al-Zawr and al-Hasakah, (4) the 230-kilovolt high-tension power line between al-Thawrah and Maskanah, (5) two power lines, crossing the Euphrates, between Dayr al-Zawr and al-Busayrah, (6) the power line between al-Qamishli and the Turkish border, (7) the power line between Maydan and Qabun, an electric lighting system for various towns and cities, and power lines and a decorative lighting system for archaeological sites and streets in cities, and (8) connecting links between the passenger and freight

train stations in Dayr al-Zawr, Hims, Kafr 'Aya, Sunaysil, Harb Nafsah, Kafr Buhum, and Sinjar al-Ma'arrah, as well as electric lighting for the train stations in Halab, al-Dumayr, Mahin, and Khunayfis. The cost of all of these projects which the company has engaged in the implementation of during the last 6 years amounts to 831,400,000 Syrian pounds.

By now the company possesses a core of technical personnel who enable the company to implement all of the projects which are within its area of competence. The company is continuously engaging in the training of its personnel by means of holding training courses both in Damascus and elsewhere in order that they become acquainted with the latest technological developments and increase their professional level and the level of their skills. More than 700 workers and technicians have been trained in the field of electricity.

9468
CSO: 4404/433

AL-HASAKAH FARMS SEEN AS MORE PROFITABLE

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 18 Jun 86 p 7

[Article by Muhammad al-Dughun: "The Difficult Road from Losses to Profit"]

[Text] The circumstances in which the state farms in the Province of al-Hasakah in particular were established were not favorable. This is what some people are saying, including Eng Hasib Bakkur, assistant director of agriculture and agrarian reform in al-Hasakah. He also went on to say: "There were lands that, on the agricultural map, remained unoccupied after the most fertile irrigated lands were given to farmers coming from the flood areas in the Province of al-Raqqah. The area extending from Ra's al-'Ayn to al-Malikiyah was given to the farmers. As for the remaining area, it was decided that this should then be the nucleus of state farms. A large portion of these lands is located in the second, third, and fourth settlement areas."

We also heard, from several officials in the al-Hasakah Directorate of Agriculture, words such as the following: "We will not, at this point, go into the details dealing with the administrative and bureaucratic issues which conflict with the spirit of work and accomplishment which exists in the new experiment called the state farms. Work in these farms has been going on for a number of years. They have suffered large material losses. In fact, during some of the years the wheat crop was not even harvested because the cost of harvesting it was greater than the price at which the wheat was going to be sold." Some people say that the reason for the losses suffered by the state farms is to be found in mismanagement of the farms, for example, the al-Manajir farm. The debts which this farm has accumulated so far amount to about 3 million Syrian pounds.

The marginal profits which they do occasionally earn are obtained by means of selling white poplar lumber rather than by means of selling a particular agricultural crop. For example, one study says that the cost of cotton per dunam is 578.6 Syrian pounds, whereas the average dunam in the state farms has produced 230.9 Syrian pounds worth of cotton. This represents a loss of

347.75 Syrian pounds per dunam. In the case of irrigated Mexican wheat, the cost per dunam was 149.85 Syrian pounds, whereas this same dunam of land produced only 98.15 Syrian pounds worth of wheat. This represents a loss of 57 Syrian pounds per dunam. It has reached the point that whenever the farmers want to furnish an example of how low the value of crops has become, they cite the examples of the state farms which are suffering losses and which are continuing to operate, in spite of everything!! There is a popular saying which says: "He who plants something harvests it." Why, then, have the state farms in al-Hasakah harvested only these losses which are steadily accumulating? During our quasi-field trip to the state farms of al-Hasakah, we were accompanied by officials from the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Agriculture. We asked them what the reason was for their exuberance and what surprises concerning the state farms they were saving to tell the people from the media. They said that the state farms had achieved positive results. They went on to say that, on the basis of this, the state farm directors are anticipating a sudden increase in the crop statistics and that production will be twice as much as what was produced during the last few years. No doubt the al-Hasakah Directorate of Agriculture can justify this statement. Its officials have said that the reason for this increase in production both in terms of quantity and quality is to be found in the issuance of the decree to establish the State Farms Organization. They say that this decree has led to radical changes in crop production. They also see another feature as constituting a victory for the state farms. This is the fact that no aid has been provided to these farms. The fifth 5-year plan made no reference of any kind to the state farms. They were deprived of all material support, and no change was provided for the irrigated and unirrigated lands in which they are located. This year, however, 3,000 dunams of unirrigated land were transformed into irrigated land. Also, an additional 10 million Syrian pounds were earmarked for taking the new unirrigated state farm lands and transforming these lands into irrigated lands. They said that this would enable us to control the type of agriculture that is practiced and that the investment climate would become rational and economic--which is not the case when your agriculture depends on rain which cannot be provided for in our agricultural plans. This new and fresh start apparently was what was behind the invitation to persons from the media to come out and become acquainted with the new situation. What is it that we saw?

The director of the al-Manajir farm oriented us concerning the success of the irrigated Mexican wheat crop and he picked for us some samples of the ears of wheat. According to him, nowhere in the al-Jazirah area can one find such high-quality wheat in such quantities as on this farm. Eng Salih al-Husayn added that 1,700 dunams of new irrigated wheat and 1,000 dunams of wheat on unirrigated land had been planted. It is anticipated that each dunam of irrigated land will produce 45 sacks of wheat, and it is likely that each dunam of unirrigated land will produce 20 sacks of wheat. He also said that 1,000 dunams of land have been planted with barley. What do these statistics mean? Are they a positive or a negative indicator? We saw samples. Furthermore, Eng al-Husayn said that they were optimistic. As far as the Ra's al-'Ayn farm is concerned, we learned that 700 dunams of unirrigated land had been

planted with wheat, 200 dunams had been planted with grapevines, and 50 dunams had been planted with green peas. At the al-Malikiyah farm, Eng Faysal Jirjis talked to us in some detail about the farm which he is in charge of. He said that the total area of this farm was 5,600 hectares. Its basic crops are the various types of wheat and vetch. This year the following crops have been planted--5,500 dunams of chickpeas, 5,000 dunams of millet, 600 dunams of lentils, 550 dunams of fava beans, 11,500 dunams of vetch for grazing animals, and 28,000 dunams of high-yield Mexican wheat. This is the first year during which all of the plots of the farm have been planted according to plan. Eng Jirjis expects this year's crop to be one of the best since the plan has been fulfilled 100 percent. Harvesting at the al-Malikiyah farm is done mechanically for all crops with the exception of chickpeas, fava beans, and lentils because there is no machinery to harvest crops such as these. He said that recently they had succeeded in harvesting millet by means of a modified mechanical method. Also, every day 20 truckloads of vetch are being sent to the Dar'a cattle station.

Of course, there is a great deal of optimism in what Eng Jirjis is saying because they have succeeded in implementing their agricultural plan. Also, in view of the high quality of the wheat crop, it is not being marketed in the form of stacks because the Seed Supply Organization is continuously contracting to buy the al-Malikiyah farm's entire crop. A few experiments are being done with it in preparation for having it be sold as seed for the next crop season. There is only one remark which we have concerning this farm. It does not have a station for raising sheep and cattle. This is true even though the decree dealing with its establishment provided the farm with a great deal of leeway in order to enable it to set up plants for the production of dairy products which would come from the cattle which it would be raising. The result of this is that, every day, 20 large truckloads of vetch are being sent from the extreme northeastern part of the country to the distant southern part of the country whereas this fodder crop could be used in the farm itself if the farm would take it upon itself to engage in the raising of cattle. Furthermore, sheep and goats could graze on what is left over of the crop after it has been harvested and there are a lot of positive reasons for introducing animal production in the state farms. In spite of this fact, this matter still has not received the amount of attention and concern which it deserves.

This is the picture which we got of the three state farms in the Province of al-Hasakah which have failed to earn profits even though they are economically-operated establishments. But this year they will apparently achieve more encouraging results. But are the new factors which the officials in the Directorate of Agriculture talked to us about sufficient to guarantee brilliant future successes, or have the achievements accomplished been [merely] a result of the policy of subsidizing the state farms in order to enable them to stand on their own feet at a time when we are more and more in need of grain crops? We are, in principle, satisfied with what we saw and we consider it to be a good beginning and a first step. When we asked the officials in the Directorate of Agriculture what guarantee there was that this

success would continue, they said to us: "A fund of 10 million Syrian pounds has been set aside. If we add to this amount the faith in our agricultural work which we have, this then constitutes a sure guarantee of our success in the future."

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CSO: 4404/433

BRIEFS

FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTION RULES--The Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade has issued new instructions on bringing in and taking out foreign currencies with respect to residents and non-residents. The decrees make it permissible to bring in instruments of payment in foreign currencies, including banknotes and Syrian pounds, and to take out a maximum of US $1,000 or the equivalent in foreign currencies as travel allowances or in foreign currencies given to travelers by banks with permits which are operating in Syria, with the exception of people traveling to Jordan and Lebanon, who are permitted to take out up to 2,000 Syrian pounds. With respect to non-residents, any amount of foreign currency or Syrian pounds may be brought in, without limitation, and currency exchange procedures will be recorded on customs declarations. The permitted sums of foreign currencies may be taken out, but not Syrian pounds. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 16-22 Aug 86 p 34]

CSO: 4404/2

WATER CRISIS IN AL-FUJAYRAH TERMED GRAVE

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 24 Jun 86 p 8

[Article by 'Abd-al-Razzaq Isma'il: "Water Crisis in al-Fujayrah: Water Shortage and Increased Salinity Threaten Agriculture and Health of Residents; Salinity Ratio Exceeds Maximum Allowable for Health"]

[Text] Al-Fujayrah is currently experiencing a water crisis that will have the most grave consequences if radical solutions to end it are not formulated. This crisis, which includes drinking and irrigation water, is two-fold: in some areas, there is a great shortage of water or it has dried up completely, and in others the salinity ratio of the water has increased.

The fact that many farms have died and their owners have left because of the water shortage or increased salinity means that the problem has grown to such proportions that it threatens the agricultural resources on which we depend to achieve food security.

If we are raising our voices to save our agricultural resources, we will shout to save our human resources, which are unequaled by any other resource, however valuable. We are not exaggerating or using scare tactics; the city director of al-Fujayrah has said that the salinity ratio in the city's main drinking water reservoir has exceeded the maximum acceptable to the World Health Organization, which is affecting the health of the residents and exposing them to numerous illnesses.

Irrigation Water: Brackish and Scarce

Farmer Misbah Sa'id Ma'dad says, "My farm is in al-Sayji, and I've dug four wells to a depth of approximately 300 feet. The cost of one well was 900 dirhams, and I found that there was so little water in the wells that I couldn't irrigate the mangoes, oranges, lumi [plant used for lemony spice] or date trees on the farm. It got so bad that the water in two of the four wells dried up completely, and I had to put machines on the other two wells to collect the water in a tank. If the water crisis continues, I'll give up farming for good, because suffering for 3 years is enough."

What do you think would provide enough water for your land?

"I'm going to dig a new well this year."

But the water situation in the four wells doesn't look good. How can you dig a fifth well?

"Is there any other solution?"

Isn't there enough water at some farms near yours? If so, why don't you ask for help from those who have more water than they need?

"Some farmers whose land is near mine have enough water, but they can't help anyore else because they are all afraid that one day their water will dry up. I understand their fear."

What about drinking water?

"We have to use the drinking water even though it is obviously salty."

Ibrahim 'Abdallah Muhammad, who lives in the village of Marbah says, "The drinking water has been so salty for 1 and 1/2 years that we haven't been able to drink it, and we don't use it very often for cooking. Since Khawrfakan and al-Badiyah have sweet water, I go there occasionally and get several gallons of water, enough for my family's needs.

"I had thought of digging new wells to save myself this trouble, but when I told some employees of the Ministry of Electricity and Water in Qadfa' what I planned, they said that there was no use in digging any new wells since the salinity was the same from Kalba to Qadfa'."

Farmer Muhammad Sa'id 'Awwash says, "There is enough water in the four wells I use to water vegetables, date trees, lumi trees and mangoes, but it is bitter and brackish. The problem of salinity has the same results as the water shortage problem since some crops, such as date trees, can tolerate brackish water, while vegetables, lumi trees, and mangoes can't. Mango trees are more affected by salinity than any other crop, since the trees die when the salinity exceeds a certain limit."

Farmer 'Ali Ahmad al-Farakh says, "Part of the town of Marbah has enough sweet water, and the other part suffers from a salinity problem. I have a farm in al-Badiyah watered by three wells and three farms in Marbah watered by six wells. All of my wells have enough sweet water for the vegetables and mango trees that I grow. But this doesn't mean that I am removed from the problem facing the other farmers. My six wells in Marbah are at risk, since the water will become brackish soon if there isn't much rain. In that case, the proportion of water in the wells will decrease and I'll have to dig deeper because of the brackish water. If this happens, the 230 mango trees I've planted will be at risk of dying since they can't tolerate salty water.

"The water problem has two aspects: the coastal areas have enough water, but it's salty because they're near the sea. The non-coastal areas, extending from

al-Dhayd to al-Fujayrah, don't have enough water. According to my information, many farmers have left after their farms were killed by drought."

What do you think are the causes of the problem and how can it be solved?

"The water is being drawn off unfairly in either of two ways--some farmers are drilling more wells than they need, and others are drilling the number of wells they actually need but are using more water than their farms require. I think that the Ministry of Agriculture and the municipalities will have to intervene to determine the number of wells needed for each farm and to see to it that no wells are drilled without their supervision so that technical specifications for the drilling will be followed properly. Unfortunately, there is almost no coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the municipalities."

Don't you think that modern methods of irrigation are a useful solution and should be used?

"Yes, since there are farms using modern irrigation that have saved approximately 70 percent of the amount of water they were using before they began modern irrigation."

Everyone Is Responsible

'Ali Rashid Badawi, director of the eastern agricultural district, believes that all offices that deal with the water situation bear responsibility--the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, and the municipalities.

'Ali Badawi summarizes by saying, "The Higher Authority laid down conditions and controls for drilling wells. We had great hope that this authority would deal with the water situation but as we all know, it never saw the light of day, and the Ministry of Agriculture, led by the minister, is carrying out its functions. The ministry asked every municipality in the country to adhere to the guidelines and conditions for drilling and to coordinate with it and with the agricultural districts, but some municipalities failed to comply.

"No one is criticizing the efforts made by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Electricity and Water to alert the people to the importance of using water wisely, but they did so after time had passed and the crisis had come to a head.

"I must point out that sound agricultural planning requires knowing how much water reserves we have and how much is usable. This requires taking a comprehensive survey to obtain accurate figures. The Ministry of Agriculture actually began such a survey a short while ago, but didn't finish it because of a lack of a budget. Surely a geophysical survey is one of the most important projects the unified government must carry out."

Regarding the nature of the water crisis in al-Fujayrah and its causes, 'Ali Badawi says, "Al-Fujayrah is suffering from a shortage and from a high salinity

ratio of drinking and irrigation water and therefore is facing two crises, not one. There are many reasons for the situation, but the most important one is that wells are drilled haphazardly. Farmers get permission to drill from the municipality, and experts from the Ministry of Agriculture determine where the drilling will be done. One of the shortcomings of this method is that it may be unnecessarily expensive for the farmer, since the area approved for drilling may be totally unsuitable for drilling in any portion of the area. Furthermore, the citizens' insistence upon having farms has pushed the local governments into distributing the farms without consideration for the water situation, thus contributing to the depeletion of the water reserves. Even though we support an increase in the area under cultivation, this increase must be well thought out so that it will not be at the expense of our water resources.

A third reason is that agricultural guidance did not play a strong role in making farmers aware of the importance of economical use of the water. Furthermore, modern high-powered pumps were used, raising average water usage and mixing sweet water with salty sea water. Finally, almost every home in al-Fujayrah has become a farm, with the houses surrounded by large gardens irrigated with sweet water that should be allocated for drinking and cooking."

Turning to the solutions that he believes are necessary to deal with the crisis, the director of the eastern agricultural district said, "H.E. the Ruler of al-Fujayrah has given instructions to the municipality to stop granting agricultural lands until the water situation is clear This will undoubtedly have a perceptible effect in limiting water consumption. Drilling permits should only be issued by a joint committee from the municipality and the Ministry of Agriculture so that they will no longer be given merely on the strength of a pledge by the drilling company that it will adhere to the technical specifications determined by technicians from the ministry. It is very important that greater use be made of modern irrigation methods. Widespread use of these methods is one of the ministry's most important goals because of the water they save. His Excellency has urged us to achieve great success in applying modern irrigation to the eastern district, and the ministry has issued an invitation to bid on setting up modern irrigation networks in various districts. The eastern district's allotment was 945 dunums, and the district has prepared irrigation plans whereby farmers buy the network determined for them by irrigation technicians in the district. The district then oversees design of the network and installation by the company. As a result, we have implemented modern irrigation throughout the area allocated to the eastern district--945 dunums, as I said earlier. If a farmer wants to set up an irrigation network now at his own expense, we will prepare the necessary study and show him everything required to carry out the project. Twelve farms in the district with an area of 752 dunums have implemented modern irrigation at the farmers' expense under the supervision of ministry technicians, and work is underway to bring modern irrigation to certain other farms."

How has the district faced the problems of scarcity and salinity?

"Salt water has no effect on certain crops, such as dates, but has a great effect on others, such as all types of citrus trees, mangoes and vegetables.

For this reason, the district has instructed the farmers whose land is near the sea to use this land to grow dates. The farmers have complied very well, and many have planted new varieties of dates instead of the old, while others have planted dates in place of other crops such as vegetables and citrus fruits.

Only God, may He be praised, can solve the drought problem by sending us rain, but if we want to keep the water we have now, we must draw up a plan that would consider allowing the use of water only in accordance with specific guidelines. Drawing up such a plan is an urgent national task which must be implemented immediately, since the problem grows more serious every day, actually becoming a disaster in certain districts such as al-Sayji, where many farms have died."

There are districts that don't have a salinity problem yet but are threatened. What can be done to prevent such a problem?

"I think that we must stop establishing new farms in these districts and prohibit the drilling of wells there. Farmers should also not plan any new types--they should keep the cultivated area as it is. In general, we can say that our urgent task is to keep what has already been planted, because entire agricultural districts have deteriorated, either through drought or lowered water quality."

In conclusion, 'Ali Badawi asks, "We must increase the area under cultivation, but there isn't enough water. How can we solve this difficult equation?"

The Situation is Masafi

Rashid 'Abdallah Rashid, head of the Masafi agricultural district, describes the water situation in the district, which is one of the hardest hit by the crisis: "In Marbidh and Dafta, there is very little water, and the drinking and irrigation wells in Masafi are almost dry. In fact, the wells on some farms have dried up completely, and the crops have died. The residents of the city of Masafi bring the water they need in tank trucks from nearby districts where there is some water, and the water in Wadi al-Sadr is almost gone.

I think that the crisis has two main causes--the lack of rain and the fact that the farmers have used too much water even though the ministry warned them about the consequences. If I were to give advice to the farmers, it would be to stop drilling more wells until God, may He be praised, blesses us with rain."

Deep Wells Worsen the Problem

Ahmad Shakir, deputy mayor of al-Fujayrah, uses himself as an example to show how far the water situation in al-Fujayrah has gone: "I own a farm in Dadna with a well that had a capacity of approximately 60,000 gallons a day 4 years ago. Now the capacity is 15,000 or 20,000 gallons a day at most, a decrease of 30 percent.

The water problem in al-Fujayrah has two aspects, which have caused serious damage--the salinity of the water has increased greatly in some districts, and water is scarce in others, particularly in the cities of al-Fujayrah and al-Batanah. The latter was known for its abundant water supply, and its farms were irrigated from al-Batanah basin. A basin is like a large pool supplied by springs and rain water. The basin was sufficient not only for al-Batanah's irrigation needs, but also supplied water for the wells in al-Fujayrah through ground seepage. Now the water in the basin has almost dried up and is barely enough to irrigate one farm, affecting the water in al-Fujayrah's wells. I don't mean to say that the scarcity of water in al-Batanah basin is the only reason for the water crisis in al-Fujayrah. There are many other reasons, the most important being the use of too much water and the lack of rain."

Concerning the problem of increased salinity, the deputy mayor of al-Fujayrah says, "The problem arose because of deep drilling, which caused sea water to leak into the soil. In the past, to find abundant water, you only had to drill to a depth of 100 feet or less, but now they are drilling to 300, 400 or 500 feet without finding water. When they do find it, it's brackish. The Ministry of Health drilled a 350-foot well in the valley near al-Fujayrah hospital to meet its water requirements, but despite this depth, there was no water. The hospital is still suffering from a water shortage, since its water comes from the same wells as al-Fujayrah's drinking water, which cannot meet the city's needs.

"I don't believe that the water problem in al-Fujayrah can be solved unless a plant is set up to desalinize sea water. If the plant is large, it can help irrigate nearby farms as well as provide drinking water, which will alleviate the great pressure on the wells."

Mayor of al-Fujayrah

We concluded in al-Fujayrah with Mayor 'Abd-al-Salam al-Khalayilah, who said, "The water crisis exists in al-Fujayrah and certain villages in the Emirate. However, the residents of the city of al-Fujayrah have a double problem, since in addition to the water shortage, the salinity ratio in the drinking water has reached a serious level. The salinity ratio in some wells in the main reservoir is 4,000 parts per million, in others it is 2,000 parts per million, and in some it is 800 parts per million. The average salinity ratio for the reservoir as a whole is 1,700 parts per million, which exceeds the World Health Organization maximum safe level of 1,200 parts per million. This great increase in the salinity of drinking water has serious effects on the health of the residents, since drinking unhealthy water will only result in an increase in the number of those stricken with various illnesses. The radical solution to this problem is to establish a desalinization plant in the city of al-Fujayrah. Such a project would be under the plan of the Ministry of Electricity and Water, since it was studied earlier as a project to supplement the Qadfa' electrical plant, but was never implemented because of the lack of necessary funds.

In certain villages such as Masafi, al-Sayji, and Marbih, where there is a shortage of drinking and irrigation water, the Ministry of Electricity and Water has drilled several wells to meet the residents' drinking water needs, for which we are grateful. However, these wells have not yet been connected to the existing network."

What steps has the municipality of al-Fujayrah taken regarding the crisis?

"On the basis of instructions from H.E. the Ruler of al-Fujayrah and advice from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, we have announced to all that the municipality will not grant any agricultural land anywhere in the Emirate. As a first step, we have also stopped distributing agricultural lands, and as a subsequent step, we will recall agricultural land granted to farmers that has not yet been put to use.

It has also been decided not to add any additional area to existing farms. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the municipality is fulfilling its role of instructing and advising farmers to use modern irrigation methods for wise use of irrigation water."

There is a concensus that expanded drilling of wells increases the severity of the crisis. Are you still granting drilling permits?

"In the past the municipality was granting drilling permits, but approximately 3 months ago it stopped granting any permits for farm wells except in extraordinary circumstances such as drying up of the water on farms that have had trees for years."

Some municipalities have been accused of not coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture when giving drilling permits. What about al-Fujayrah?

"We believe wholeheartedly in coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture because we realize very well that the ministry knows exactly how much ground water is in reserve in various parts of the country and is trying to maintain these reserves in order to meet the requirements of existing farms by limiting consumption and trying to apply a modern irrigation system."

The Doctors Speak

On the subject of illnesses that can result from water that is too saline, Dr Muhammad Husni Jum'ah, advisor on internal medicine at al-Zahra' Hospital in al-Shariqah says, "The body is composed of most of the elements found in the soil that surrounds it, from various minerals such as sodium, calcium, iodine, phosphorus, copper, magnesium, fluorine, etc., to gasses such as oxygen and carbon dioxide. These elements are present in the body in fixed amounts which must not increase or decrease.

When the human fetus is being formed inside the womb, it gets these elements from the mother. After birth, it gets them either by mouth or through the lungs, and they remain at fixed levels. If they increase, the excess over

natural levels is eliminated either by the urinary system through the kidneys, by the digestive system through elimination, or by the skin through perspiration, in order to avoid harm to the body.

"It is natural for a person to get these elements from eating and drinking. For this reason, drinking water is extremely important since, in addition to eating, it is the means by which these various elements enter the body. If a person does not experience proper elimination, as when he has a disease of the kidneys, this can cause the levels to increase to such a degree that the body is endangered. I will give some examples of illnesses or damage that could result from ingesting water containing elevated levels of the elements such as those found in the body.

Fluoride: This mineral must be ingested in small amounts (physiological) because it helps prevent tooth decay and bone calcification. If taken in amounts greater than the physiological level, nerve damage, renal damage, arterial calcification, joint and stomach pains, tooth malformation, and abnormal bone calcification will occur. This phenomenon is known medically as the beginning of "fluorosis," which is widespread in al-Shariqah, since the people used to ingest water from wells rich in this element, causing tooth malformation and abnormal bone calcification, often observed by doctors when bone X-rays are taken of these residents.

Sodium: Sodium chloride (table salt) is the most important preparation made from sodium. Physiologically, the kidneys regulate the amount of sodium in the body by excreting it in the urine as the body requires. In diseases of the circulatory system, such as high blood pressure, abstaining from sodium salt intake is an important part of the treatment, since elevated levels in the body lead to elevated pressure or water retention and swelling in the extremities because the kidneys cannot rid the body of excess salt. For this reason, abstenance from salt is always advised during treatment, and one serious problem is that while the patient is not eating salt, he is ingesting it in drinking and cooking water that is rich in the element. This extends the period of treatment, or the patient's condition may worsen despite treatment.

Potassium: Potassium is a very important element which, in elevated levels in the body, can lead to dangerous cardiac symptoms. This is particularly true in cases of nephritis, when the kidneys cannot rid the body of excess potassium, which may cause the heart to stop functioning completely.

Iodine: Iodine is a very important element because it is one of the components of the thyroid gland hormone known as "thyroxine," which plays an important role in growth of the body and in the nervous system. When it is not present in children, growth cessation and irreversible mental retardation result. The required daily intake is between 150 and 300 micrograms. A severe iodine deficiency causes enlargement of the thyroid gland. The opposite is also true--ingesting large quantities of this element results in thyroid insufficiency and undersecretion of the thyroxine hormone."

9882/12795
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THERMOELECTRIC STATION IN UNDERGRADUATE CAMP

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 7 Aug 86 p 4

[Article: "Secretary of Undergraduate Council Says This Is First Production Camp in Economic Center; Undergraduates: Participation Related to Specializations"]

[Text] Our young undergraduates are using their learning, labor, and defense positions to translate their mottos into tangible reality by the various ways in which they increase their efforts. They are being led, in this respect, by their militant organization, the Socialist (Fatah), Youth Federation of Yemen, which has constantly proved to be a solid party reserve and a source of new blood in the shape of highly effective, powerful toilers acting everywhere with revolutionary fervor, whether it be in places of learning, work, or defense and innovation. So it is that they actively participate in creating a new lifestyle for our country and effecting the revolutionary adjustments it needs in oder to complete its current national, democratic, and revolutionary phase under the banner of our able, inspiring, and instructive party.

The thermoelectric station, a vitally important economic utility and the luminous fruit of Yemeni-Soviet friendship, is now the site of serious and productive work where young Aden University undergraduates are playing an active part in the first production and cultural camp of its kind in the life of the university youngsters. Being convinced of the importance of their contribution, we decided to visit the work site and interview some of the students in the camp to find out their impressions and feelings.

Undergraduate Nabil 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abdallah, secretary of the University Student Council, began his interview by thanking 14 UKTUBAR for focusing attention on the university student camp and pointed out that its importance stems from the fact that it is the first to be organized in an important economic center such as the hydroelectric station, and came into being after the party's victory over the abortive, bloodstained 13 January plot.

He noted that the immense popularity of the camp is proof of the students' political awareness and their readiness to work and participate in carrying out the Yemeni Socialist Party's economic, social, and cultural plans and programs.

He pointed out that the cognizant conviction and attitude of the undergraduates in respect of their tasks leave no room for doubt that they are fully aware of the importance of what they are doing and that it is the foundation on which society's physical life rests whereby the material benefits essential to development and progress can again be produced, thus laying the foundations which our party is working to consolidate, inspired by a scientific socialist theory.

He went on to say that our undergraduates' attitude towards work has earned them the high esteem and deep appreciation of Yemeni workers and Soviet consultants and engineers, and has the result of their achievements, which include a high, 240 percent performance rating of tasks assigned to them. This has provided an incentive to their fellow workers, inspiring them to redouble their efforts in order to achieve a pace that will complete the station on schedule.

He wished to set down on record his satisfaction as camp director for the successful achievements by the university students which he was able to sense for himself from the reports drawn up by the authorities responsible for the project and which paid tribute to the work done.

Training College undergraduate, Naji Mohammed Sa'id spoke about his participation in the camp and said that the organization of such camps for undergraduates and young people is an important method of instilling a fondness for work and relating the campers to the economic production process. They can learn skills that help them to become effective builders of a new society. Summer camps also enable students to exchange views and foster a constructive spirit of cooperation in executing the tasks assigned in Yemeni Socialist Party documents to this large segment of the population.

He then went on to speak about the importance of youth as an effective revolutionary force, recalling the words of that outstanding proletarian teacher Vladimir Ilich Lenin when referring to youth: "Marshal the young into hundreds of revolutionary cells and encourage them to work with all their might, for it is the young who will decide the fate of the struggle, be they students or, more specifically, the working young."

He then referred to the founders of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the great national militant and teacher 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il, who had sought throughout their militant lives to draw the young into widespread and organized action to further the country's revolutionary process both during the period of armed struggle and after independence was gained. Strenuous efforts had been bent to this end, eventually culminating in the formation of their militant organization, YDYF (Yemen Democratic Youth Federation), in February 1973 to strengthen implementation by the young of the national democratic revolution's tasks.

He pointed out that the importance of this year's camp stems from the location in which the young undergraduates are working, namely the vitally important hydroelectric station. This emphasizes the growing relevance attached by student leaders to involving students in realizing economic and political objectives set for Yemen's young people in general.

College of Technology student Intissar Seif 'Abdallah spoke about her participation. She is enrolled in the electricity department of the College of Technology. She said that she is working in a shop where she interprets practical processes and experiments to assist station technicians, facilitate comprehension, and achieve a high rate of performance.

She pointed out that this was the first time she had joined a young students' camp alongside colleagues and fellow students from the various colleges of Aden University. This she believes strengthens relations between the young militants and reinforces their unity within their own organization, YDYF, helping them to carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Yemeni Socialist Party, leader of the country's popular progression.

She went on to describe the many camp activities pursued besides the work in the station. These include organizing galas and celebrations to mark national and state occasions, expeditions, and cultural and intellectual contests with other youth camps in other utilities. Activities also include trips to the various governorates to find out the way of life of rural populations. Special meetings and symposia are organized to familiarize participants with conditions in the Arab states through input provided by liberation movement students in the camp.

Wafa' Hisham El Qousy from the College of Economics began her statement by thanking 14 UKTUBAR. She said that undergraduate participation in the camp is extremely useful since it has been organized in the thermoelectric station, which is of such vital economic importance. Electricity being a source of energy, a utility such as the one in which the camp is being held thus becomes one of the prime installations developing the economy and expanding production and services in all the economic sectors of a country.

In this connection she referred to the fact that the thermoelectric station is the largest electric power project in the country. Participation in the camp by the undergraduates has been useful in several respects. It has enabled the campers to get an idea on site of a working project based on academic economic theories studied in the university. Moreover, working on such an enterprise teaches discipline and provides a fine personal experience by helping the young to make a serious and viable contribution to building a new life for our country.

She went on to say that the undergraduates have proved to have a sense of responsibility. Work has proceeded apace with excellent performances, the results doing the youngsters credit and earning the praise of the Soviet consultants and engineers and Yemeni project managers. This makes participation by the young people very meaningful, with Yemini undergraduates proving their creative and innovative abilities in completing the tasks entrusted to them to the highest possible degree.

College of Technology student 'Abd-al-Nasser Mohammed Moqbel, who is responsible for production work in the camp, described his own participation, stating that this is the first to be organized for undergraduates and to be staged on such a vast project. It is similar to

the summer camps organized in socialist countries and is designed to make use of the summer vacation spare time, reinforcing the role played by the young in helping to create a new life for the people.

He pointed out that the participants took part in carpentry work, painting, chemical protection and metalwork. They also participated in setting up work building numbers 1 and 2. As for the women students, they had helped in translation and administration.

He stressed that the duties performed by the students earned them the respect of the authorities responsible for the station including the Yemeni managers and the Soviet consultants. The students achieved some good results in production, thereby making a modest contribution to national economic development and expediting completion of this gigantic vital project so beneficial to the country's whole economy.

Undergraduate Mohammed Ibn Mohammed al-Majidi pointed out that student and youth camps are akin to youthful political demonstrations embodying production, educational, and cultural objectives and help occupy the students' spare time with useful activity. This camp is a first, since it brings the undergraduates into direct contact with the staff and labor force of a gigantic sociopolitical project, namely the thermal-electricity station, in the construction of which Soviet consultants and engineers are participating alongside their Yemeni counterparts.

In this connection al-Majidi said that participation in the camp provides the students with considerable experience for their future lives. His own personal impression, he concluded, was one of intense joy at being able to work alongside Yemeni and Soviet workers, in implementation of party plans and in progressive practice in the service of the Yemeni nation and revolution led by the Yemeni Socialist Party.

13291/12781
CSO: 4404/503

PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE ACHIEVEMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEWED

Ta'izz AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Aug 86 pp 4-6

[Article: "The Concluding Statement Issued by the Third General Conference of the General People's Conference"]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, who, in his masterful beloved book, has said, "Hold fast to the cord of God and do not disperse" and says, "And say 'work,' soon will God observe your work and his apostle and the believers." God has told the truth. Prayers and peace be upon his prophet, the truthful and honest.

Under the watchword of participation by the people along the road of democracy, development and Yemeni unity: in a climate filled with the self-sacrifice of the present, and replete with the hopes, pride in self, self-confidence and success in work which he gives; the enthusiasm of deep loyalty to the Yemeni nation, its land, people and revolution; the loftiness of the free independent national will and adherence to the values of the platform and the situation of our revolutionary charter society; the determination for serious responsible national action aimed at doubling the great national acts of self-sacrifice and glorious triumphs the course of the immortal 26 September revolution has realized and is realizing under the leadership of our brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president, commander general of the armed forces and secretary general of the general people's conference; a vivid, continuous embodiment of the principles of the triumphant revolution and the contents of the national charter in the various areas of political, democratic and development construction; and a translation of our people's aspirations toward the progress of their revolutionary course of the charter and its acquisition of further national accomplishments and gains:

The third general conference of the general people's conference was held in the city of Ta'izz, the second capital, in the period between 25 and 30 August 1986 under the chairmanship of the pioneer of the course of development and democracy, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president, commander general of the armed forces and secretary general of the general people's conference.

Our brother the president, commander and secretary general of the conference opened with an important statement which included greetings to the brother members of the conference. In it, he addressed himself to what has been achieved on the road of development and growth of political action, which is to be con-

sidered a Yemeni experiment arising from the characteristics of our situation and the aspirations of the masses of the people, which they have forged through their free independent will, and through which the sound vision of the course of national action has been determined and around which all the efforts and energies exerted in the areas of work and production rally, especially now that the organizational structure and basic forms of the general people's conference have been rounded out and now come to represent all the governorates, administrative units and different sectors of the government. He stressed that the brother members of the conference had to appreciate the confidence of the masses of the people, which constitute the fundamental base of the general people's conference, and that they should measure up to that trust by performing their duty in running political activity, embodying the contents of the national charter and the political action program and shielding our Moslem Arab Yemeni society from all types of violations, narrow loyalties and alien ideas which the constituion has prohibited, the course of the revolution has transcended and the society of the national charter has gone beyond, whatever labels might cover them.

After that the conference heard the report of the secretary general, who described the stages the revolution and our people's struggle had passed through and the cavalcades of martyrs they had offered in defending it, protecting our republican system and building its modern institutions in consummation of the great achievement which is embodied in the national charter and the establishment of the general people's conference.

In the Economic and Development Field

Sound economic construction which will guarantee society the production of its basic needs, with reliance on its powers and abilities, is an important, vital matter which is considered in effect the strong material foundation on which the vitality of the national will relies. From this premise, aspiring toward the realization of further achievements in this area, the conference has adopted the following:

The conference gives great appreciation to the development and economic achievements our country has realized. In the forefront of these achievements are the rebuilding of the great historic Ma'rib dam, the production of oil and mineral resources and the construction of the Ma'rib refinery, in their capacity as achievements crowning the second 5-year development plan and contributing to the realization of great social transformations in the life of our people on the road of the immortal September revolution. The conference extols the steps the government is taking toward further research and exploration for oil and mineral resources and their exploitation for purposes of comprehensive development.

The conference affirms the importance of the higher committee to prepare the third 5-year plan's commitment to the directives of our brother the president, commander and secretary general regarding reliance on the principle of democracy in planning through reference to the people as represented by their local councils and branch conferences and the use of views and observations to the end of organizing the people's efforts, with official efforts,

to grasp the requirements of development, help bear its burdens and concentrate on productive projects.

The conference affirms the importance of stimulating the agricultural sector, on grounds that it is the basic foundation of a strong domestic economy, by setting out scientific and practical steps to guarantee the increase in the acreage of farmed land and in particular the West and East Tihamahs, which can assimilate modern mechanization in many crops, with the goal of realizing self-sufficiency, strengthening self-sufficiency in food and exporting the surplus.

The conference recommends emphasizing agricultural guidance efforts through the use of modern agricultural techniques and methods and use of the best types of agricultural machinery and equipment, fertilizer and good improved seeds through the radio and television media, by means of advanced scientific programs, agricultural production planning based on climatic and geographic circumstances, the setting out of an agricultural map for all areas, treatment of the shortage in local expertise and encouragement of the establishment of food processing products, following the success of the important historic decree regarding the realization of self-sufficiency in fruit and vegetables.

The people at the conference assert that importance of encouraging investment in agrucultural production areas, the effort to establish major agricultural companies, the increased establishment and encouragement of agricultural societies, the assessment of effective bonuses and facilities for realizing that, and the effort to have farmers possessing small agricultural properties benefit by means of their societies from the use of the best scientific techniques and methods and modern mechanization.

The conference recommends the continued construction of dams, treatment of the problem of arbitrary water resource use and the effort to issue legislation regulating groundwater use activities as an important, vital national resource and stresses the need for the higher water council to exercise its tasks and responsibilities.

The conference stresses the importance of seeking areas for marketing agricultural products domestically and abroad through the establishment of a number of specialized companies, offering them the necessary facilities and incentives, establishing cooling warehouses and expanding the establishment of grain silos.

The conference recommends the continued expanded establishment of nurseries to produce fruit seedlings and deliver them to farmers at token prices, full supervision of them to ascertain their success and growth, the devotion of further attention to the protection of crops from agricultural pests and diseases by providing pesticides and treatment equipment and guiding farmers in ways of using them, the establishment of fodder plants relying on local raw materials, the protection of farm lands, including terrances, from land-stripping, and the setting out of studies to protect farmland from desert encroachment.

The conference stresses the importance of preparing an integrated animal and fish resource development plan, optimum use of these resources and investigation of the possibility of diversifying food in the form of meat to guarantee attainment of the desired degree of self-sufficiency by establishing fishing companies and supporting the activity of fishermen's societies so that they will be able to expand their activity and increase their production.

The conference affirms the use of gas available in the Ma'rib-al-Jawf area and other areas, while granting importance to local consumption and the rapid orientation toward the use of this gas to generate electric power and toward other factories for whose establishment planning is taking place, which depend on the consumption of large amounts of energy.

The conference praises the orientation our brother the president, commander and secretary general has declared toward the investment of oil resource revenues in the financing of agricultural and industrial development projects, fundamentally with local raw materials, and expansion of the productive base to realize this goal. It stresses the setting out of studies to guarantee that this civilized national orientation is realized.

The conference recommends the training of modern, advanced domestic technical personnel who are scientifically and practically qualified to assume the responsibility of administering the main units in the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and help the higher oil council realize effective surveillance over all technical, financial and accounting aspects of the activities of exploiting oil resources. It asserts the need to develop the Faculty of Sciences at Sanaa University to master areas of competence connected to oil resources.

The conference recommends prohibiting the importing of luxuries, providing basic commodities and materials in the context of current international economic changes, mobilizing capacities and rallying all efforts around attainment of the goals of comprehensive national development.

The conference stresses that the development transformation stage requires observing the areas of agricultural and industrial production and supporting them with a group of steps, most important of which are:

Expansion in the area of technical and vocational education and accrediting young people with skills and expertise in higher training centers of a specialized character.

Scientific planning for working manpower and means for developing and benefiting from these forces.

Scientific planning to absorb domestic labor, train it, develop its abilities, make proper use of it and confine the use of foreign labor to necessary technical experts who are not available locally.

Obligation of the public, mixed and private domestic economic sectors to give priority to productive projects which rely on local instead of imported raw materials.

The conference recommends the need to set out technical and economic plans and studies and define administrative and financial modes of guidance which will guarantee the facilitation of remittances by our brother Yemeni expatriates in one direction of investment in agricultural, industrial and housing productive areas as well as regulating the process of expatriates' remittances through domestic banks, in cooperation with our missions and consulates abroad, in order to stress the importance of expanding and underlining the different aspects of their activity in the care of expatriates.

The conference praises the government's fiscal policy, which is founded on limiting public spending, and emphasizes the importance of perpetuating policies which will make it possible to derive maximum benefit from all spending within the narrowest limits and adopting measures which will guarantee that public spending is directed toward necessary areas in accordance with carefully-studied priorities.

The conference recommends the encouragement of savings in a manner which will realize an increase in savings and their shift toward areas of productive investment, so that such spending may realize the greatest possible returns at the lowest possible cost, and the setting out of a work program to guide the private sector toward effective participation in the agricultural and industrial investment process, which will have the effect of increasing gross domestic product, realizing a surplus for export and replacing import alternatives.

The conference stresses the need to carry out the council of ministers' economic resolutions bearing on the development of resources issued on 9 July 1986.

The conference stresses the need to carry out laws in a manner which will guarantee attainment of the principle of equality among all citizens with respect to rights and duties and the adoption of measures to guarantee the inhibition of tax evasion.

The conference recommends a review of certain sections of the law on customs tariffs in a manner which will guarantee that loopholes by which evaders find a way to avoid paying what is due the government are sealed.

The conference stresses the need to apply the principle of reward and punishment as a material and moral incentive for realizing better productivity at various worksites, especially those which have a direct relationship to the citizen.

The conference recommends the effort to encourage and develop the tourist sector, in view of the role this sector can play as an important source of income, and benefitting from all the many tourist resources available in our country in a manner which does not conflict with our people's Islamic beliefs.

The conference recommends strengthening the measures taken in the areas of supply, trade, money and finance and asserting the importance of effective constant surveillance over prices, the adoption of deterrent penalties for people commiting violations and the reorganization and classification of foreign trade.

The conference asserts the importance of the role of general supply organizations as an effective instrument in the government's hands to continue providing essential commodities for citizens in a constant fashion and at suitable prices,

and also asserts the importance of expanding the activities of these organizations to include all the governorates of the republic, developing that activity to deliver commodities directly to the consumer and seeking to develop the administration and statutes of these organizations in a manner which will realize the general goals for whose sake they were established.

The conference stresses the need to adopt every effective measure to halt disorganized commercial activities through non-official channels and to proceed in the direction of issuing the necessary legislation to limit this phenomenon, which harms our domestic economy.

The conference recommends that the third 5-year plan concentrate on strengthening the development of manpower, on grounds that that is the basis for maintaining the gains of development and because man is the goal and means of development at the same time, by expanding the establishment of technical and occupational institutes for various specializations, issuing legislation guaranteeing that receptivity to these institutes is encouraged and planning intermediate, secondary and university education in a manner which will respond to the needs of development in various sectors.

The conference recommends the need for the government to devote attention to the development of remote areas by providing them with service projects and other basic requirements which these areas need.

In the Area of Administrative Development and Administrative Reform

The building up of man is considered a prominent goal of the 22 September revolution, which liberated him from the oppression of slavery, repression and tyranny in a manner which made Yemeni man, in the context of the revolution and the republic, the master of his will and the creator of his development in our society. In order to guarantee the strengthening of his abilities and to enable him to master the details of development, the conference asserts the importance of scientific planning for the development of domestic personnel, skills and experts who are able to respond to development. In this area, the conference has adopted the following:

The conference stresses the creation of a general system for the administrative organization of the government which will guarantee the main components of the agencies of the government relative stability and firmness on the one hand and the necessary flexibility for their organizational structures on the other, in a manner which will make it possible to avoid making numerous rapid changes regarding the incorporation, separation or establishment of ministeries, departments and authorities and in a manner which will bring about their development and modernization at the same time.

The conference recommends de-emphasis in expanding the independent administrative and economic units belonging to units of the government's administrative system in order to limit the dispersion of the scope of supervision and reduce expenses, by combining homogeneous activities within single subdivisions and eliminating overlapping or duplication of areas of competence among various units.

The conference recommends the completion of the organizational structures of the government's agencies by observing clarity in lines of authority and defining vertical and horizontal organizational relations among organizational levels within each individual unit in a manner which will prevent conflict, repetition or duplication and keep planning activities, executive activities and oversight and followup activities distinct.

The conference recommends the development of laws and bills governing activity in the government agencies, whether they concern specific units and lead to the realization of the goal for whose sake they were established or are related to specific activities or organizations which are applied throughout the government. This will reflect modern scientific curricula in administration and improve performance on the one hand and will also reflect developments which have occurred in the government's economic, social and political structure on the other.

The conference recommends a review of the conditions of general and mixed organizations, their evaluation in terms of their organization and the formation of their boards of directors, and their supervision in a manner which will guarantee balance between the necessary flexibility in running their activity and their necessary surveillance, while emphasizing research activity and the development of activity in a manner which is compatible with technological, scientific and modern scientific progress.

The conference recommends the importance of expanding the training and accreditation of manpower and developing its abilities in a manner which will keep abreast of the expansion in the government's assumption of the provision of services and administration of development and the effort to establish specialized technical institutes, support existing training institutes to cover the development plans' needs for qualified technical manpower and prepare specialized pre-service qualification programs and formal and behavior programs with the goal of increasing workers' productive competence and changing their behavior patterns in a manner which will guarantee that seriousness and competence are achieved in the performance of work and scarcities in the workforce are compensated for.

The conference recommends the need to send people abroad on missions, grants and study and training leaves in an optimum manner.

The conference recommends the importance of administrative indoctrination to further the development of functional performance, deepen modern conceptions of it and raise the level of the workers' commitment to the general duties of the job, attention to public funds and the effort to eliminate manifestations of negative conduct which affects the performance of the workforce.

The conference stresses attention to the development and support of statutes bearing on oversight, inspection and followup to confirm the soundness of application and execution of the laws, bills, decrees and instructions issued by the various government agencies.

The conference recommends the effort to exert further attention in coordination among training, employment, education and planning policies and the effort to plan education, develop its structures and foundation and raise the level of education in a manner which will be in keeping with requirements.

The conference recommends the setting out of a specific schedule aimed at replacing non-Yemeni with Yemeni experts and competent persons in various areas and specialized fields, provided that that be part of a general plan which will realize this objective.

The conference recommends the effort to issue a general civil service law aimed at realizing balance and coordination among service conditions among government agencies, public organizations and various private personnel in a manner which will realize employment stability and equity in the treatment of employees and will create a balanced wage and price structure in a manner which will bring about the development of administrative performance.

The conference recommends setting out a modern statute for gradual employment advancement and promotions and linking that to performance reports and the passage of stipulated accreditation courses for promotion, on top of general conditions.

The conference recommends the need to complete the organizational and employment structures of administrative units in the province, district and subdistrict contexts and provide qualified manpower while giving them priority in the distribution of graduates, in accordance with their needs, in addition to the need to work to provide units in a manner which will guarantee that employees are firmly based at the seat of their activities and will help them link the level of performance to increased production.

The conference recommends accelerating the performance of the necessary studies for reviewing administrative subdivisions, with attention to the various bases the law on administrative units specifies in this regard, so that this subdivision will keep abreast of the economic and social development our country is witnessing and constitutional measures will be fully carried out in their regard.

The conference recommends attention to the activity of branches of administrative agencies and their offices in the provinces, control of the relationship between them and central and local agencies and reduction of the difficulties standing in the way of the execution of the desired policies and activities so that they will be able to perform the duties and responsibilities assigned to them.

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CSO: 4404/506

INSAT-1C MODIFIED, INSAT-1D LAUNCH PLANS TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Aug 86 p 6

[Text]

BANGALORE, Aug. 27.

The third satellite in the INSAT-1 series, INSAT-1C, which was scheduled to be launched by the U.S. space shuttle this year, will now be sent up by the Ariane, the satellite launcher of the European Space Agency, in January 1988. This change in the launch vehicle for the INSAT-1C was necessitated by temporary stoppage of the space shuttle launch programme following the tragic disintegration of the Challenger recently.

INSAT-1C is now being modified at Ford Aerospace in Palo Alto, California, for its ride aboard the Ariane. According to ISRO sources here, the modifications needed will be minor, since the initial design of the satellite had been made keeping in mind the possibility that recourse might have to be taken to an expendable launch vehicle.

The major modifications to be made are the fitting in of a different adapter for the satellite to suit the Ariane and changing of the on-board launch sequencer. The latter is needed since now, with the Ariane, the satellite will be placed directly into geosynchronous orbit. If the space shuttle had been used the satellite would have first ridden in the shuttle's hold into a low earth orbit and then sent up into the geosynchronous orbit from the shuttle by using a payload assist module (PAM).

Software changes: Besides the minor hardware modifications, there will be a lot of software changes in the form of new safety and launch documentation and all the changes are expected to be done by July 1987.

A fellow traveller of INSAT-1C, on its ride aboard the Ariane will be the European Communications Satellite-5. But the satellites will be cocooned in separate compartments so there is no need to make any structural changes in the INSAT-1C to mate with the ECS-5.

The extra cost incurred for launching INSAT-1C using Ariane will be around Rs. 23 crores. The launch by the shuttle, which was subsidised by NASA, would have been only Rs. 21 crores.

Advantages in Ariane launch: However, there will be some advantages from the Ariane launch. First of all, the rocket will be launched from Kourou only 8 degrees away from the equator whereas Cape Kennedy, from which the shuttle would have been launched is 28 degrees above the equator. Thus, the satellite will have to expend less on-board fuel for latitude correction. Secondly, Ariane gives the satellite a 3-axis-stabilised launch while the PAM on the shuttle would have given the satellite a spin-stabilised launch. This again saves the satellite on-board fuel while making its final alignment.

INSAT-1D getting ready: Work on the INSAT-1D, which was started on October 1, 1985, is progressing satisfactorily. The plan to launch it via the shuttle still stands. The spacecraft readiness is scheduled for mid-1988 and its launch will be around late 1988-89.

Though basically identical in configuration with the first three INSAT-1 satellites, INSAT-1D has certain improved features in terms of a larger battery capacity to support a larger payload operation during eclipse periods, a 3:2 redundancy for the output devices of the C-band transponder channels No-11 and 12, a larger propellant tank etc. INSAT-1D will ensure a safe cross over margin for satellite services before the INSAT-2 series of satellites are placed in orbit.

/13046
CSO: 4600/0007

SOVIET UNION TO EXPEDITE HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 28 Aug 86 p 6

[Text]

New Delhi, Aug. 27 (UNI): India and the Soviet Union have agreed that intensive integrated exploration for hydrocarbons in the Cambay (north) and Cauvery basins would be expedited by the Soviet side who have been leased the area, according to an official release.

The decision was taken at the recently concluded meeting of the working group on cooperation in oil industry in Moscow. The Soviet seismic party had already started seismic surveys in the Cauvery basin from July, 1986.

The preparatory work to start surveys in the Cambay basin had also been taken up and work is expected to start after the monsoons by October, 1986.

Drilling of para-meteric well in the Cambay basin is expected to be taken up by the end of the current year and in the Cauvery basin is expected to start in the first half of the 1987 after the seismic data has been analysed.

Considerable amount of seismic work has been carried out in West Bengal as well with the help of Soviet teams. On the basis of this work, the Soviet side has agreed to take up one or two locations in West Bengal for drilling on a turnkey basis.

It is expected that the rouble expenditure would be financed by the long-term credit made available by the Soviet Union under the agreement reached between the two governments in May, 1985.

The working group also discussed the question of long-term programme of cooperation up to the year 2000.

As it is, the intensive integrated exploration project in the Cauvery and Cambay basins extends up to the year 1995. The group also exchanged ideas on other areas of cooperation on a long-term basis.

/13046
CSO: 4600/0006

SECOND RAIL LINK TO INDIA OPPOSED IN PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Aug 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 29

A contrived press campaign has been launched in Pakistan opposing the opening of a second rail link with India through Khokrapar and Munabao connecting Sind and Rajasthan.

The rail link has remained closed since the 1965 Indo-Pakistan conflict and, despite repeated Indian efforts to reopen it, Pakistan has stalled the move on one pretext or the other since it did not want to allow anydirect movements through this route for political reasons.

The Pakistan President, Gen. Zia-Ul-Haq, had opposed the move in his capacity as Chief Martial Law Administrator every time India raised it. But after the so-called restoration of popular rule, the new Prime Minister, Mr. Junejo, who belongs to Sind, agreed to the reopening of the route.

The work for the restoration of the rail link has progressed and the route is due to be reopened in early October. But in the wake of the latest political turmoils in Sind, the Pakistan Government has started dragging its feet again.

An insidious press campaign has been launched now insinuating that India would use this route for sending agents and stirring up trouble in Sind province which is already rocked by widespread political unrest in the wake of the agitation being spearheaded by Miss Benazir Bhutto for restoration of democracy

The Government of India is waiting to see whether the Pakistan Government would use this campaign as an excuse for postponing the opening of this second land route, before formally protesting against it. The work on the Indian side of the border is proceeding to complete the arrangements for customs and immigration clearance.

At present, the only land route between India and Pakistan is through the Wagah border between Amritsar and Lahore which are connected by both road and rail. The two countries have been trying to simplify the border formalities to enable freer movement. But any further delay in the reopening of the Khokrapar-Munabao route is bound to interrupt the attempts to streamline the procedures at the Wagah border which is in the midst of a highly sensitive defence zone.

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CSO: 4600/0009

INDO-AFGHAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INAUGURATED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] An Indo-Afghan Friendship Society was inaugurated in the Capital on Friday on the occasion of the Independence Day and Armed Forces Day of Afghanistan.

At a public meeting on the occasion, several speakers talked of the rich cultural ties between the two countries and common ideological outlook.

In a message to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi read out by AICC Foreign Cell Convener Romesh Bhandari, Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, described the establishment of the Indo-Afghan Friendship Society as "another significant step towards the consolidation and expansion of traditional friendly relations between the two countries".

Ambassador of Afghanistan Dr Mohd. Hassan Sharq said at the meeting, chaired by president of the Indo-Afghan Friendship Society G L Dogra, that the present situation in Afghanistan "has improved much" and the Soviet Union had announced a partial withdrawal of its troops which had been stationed in Afghanistan since 1979.

General secretary of All India Congress Committee R L Bhatia said unlike as was commonly thought, India had good relations with Afghanistan not because of its friendly relations with USSR, but because "Afghanistan is fighting a war for all of us". He was referring to imperialism.

The new government in Afghanistan was a people's government, he said, which had taken steps to distribute land to the landless and give voting rights to women, among other things.

Mr Bhandari said India supported a political solution to the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan. He hoped that the next round of talks in Geneva with the UN Secretary-General would pave the way for a political solution.

/13046
CSO: 4600/0001

ONGC SIGNS EXPLORATION AGREEMENT WITH PETRO VIETNAM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Aug 86 p 10

[Text]

Bombay, Aug 29 (UNI)—The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has entered into an agreement with 'Petro Vietnam' to explore hydro-carbons in Vietnam's offshore areas, General Insurance Company (GIC) chairman Ashok Goenka said today.

Speaking at an international two-day seminar here on 'Onshore and offshore insurance', Mr Goenka said that considering the very high loss exposure and highly technical nature of ONGC risk business there was need for a continuous dialogue with specialist reinsurers. He pointed out that reinsurance markets were all concentrated in London, France, Scandinavia, and the United States, adding that Indian companies had to be careful while seeking reinsurance support.

ONGC chairman Col S P Wahi announced the setting up of an institute of environmental safety in Bombay. He assured insurance companies that ONGC was conscious about the safety of its operations and gave due importance to risk management.

He expected insurance companies to feed ONGC with data about damages in oil fields worldwide so that it could take appropriate precautions.

Col Wahi, who inaugurated the seminar, said India had a very bright future in oil exploration and would be self-sufficient by 2005 AD, the anticipated outlay bowing around Rs 60,000 crore. ONGC, until now has earned a net profit of Rs 1,528 crore and achieved an almost four-fold increase in crude production and natural gas sales.

Welcoming the participants, who included representatives of major Indian and international insurance companies, Mr G C Bhattacharya, chairman, United India Assurance, hoped that the seminar would make a significant contribution towards understanding the complexity of risk in sophisticated safety systems adopted by the ONGC. Representatives from Sedgwick Offshore Resources (London), Lloyds Norway, Willis Faber Insurance, Greig Fenner and 10 other world renowned reinsurance companies as also more than 100 Indian delegates participated in the deliberations, in which several technical papers were also presented.

Mr J B Boda, who has been involved in reinsurance of Indian offshore risks, said the amount involved in offshore risks were so large that no country could commercially undertake such risks on its own.

He said Indian insurers had been internationally accepted as members of the worldwide oil and gas insurers community.

To provide insurance covers for clients like ONGC, Indian insurers had to use overseas markets. It involved spending foreign exchange to pay the premium. Indian companies hence had been accepting reinsurance of oil and gas risks in various countries. As such, this party helped make good the outgo of foreign exchange, he said.

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CSO: 4600/0010

RAJYA SABHA PASSES DOWRY PROHIBITION BILL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Aug 86 p 5

[Text] The Rajya Sabha on Friday passed the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1986, seeking stringent punishment for offenders and shifting the onus of proof of dowry deaths on the husband and his family. It also defines for the first time, "dowry death" by making it an offence under the Indian Penal Code.

In her reply to the debate on the bill, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Margaret Alva told the House that the Government was now in the process of bringing in the necessary consequential amendments in the Cr PC (Criminal Procedure Code) and the Indian Evidence Actfor achieving the object.

Section 304 B, she added, was being added for the first time to the Indian Penal Code to define a dowry death. In addition, she said, section 113 B was being included in the Indian Evidence Act to add weightage to a suicide note by a court of law.

Mrs Alva also said that the Government was in the process of bringing in an "optional civil code" for women but did not reveal the details being worked out by the Legal Department.

Hitherto, the Minister said, the giver and taker of dowry had been equated. But now the law stands amended to give protection to the complainant by providing that any statement by him — even one in which he concedes having given dowry — would not be used against him.

Women's organisations, too, had been given legal status in dowry cases and more para-legal and legal cells would be set up with complaints of women, who becoame victims of demands of more dowry.

Mrs Alva said often the Centre was blamed by the State governments because of lack of coordination.

She said the new laws will go far beyond just "suicide notes" and circumstantial evidence on dowry death. One often sees that the girls die of stove burst only in the mother-in-law house and never in thier mother's house", she said.

Under the new law, the minimum punishment for taking or abetting the taking of dowry is being enhanced to five years imprisonment and Rs 15,000 fine.

Earlier, the members participating in the disussion felt that by raising the social status and conferment of equality on women alone could eradicate the evil of dowry stystem.

Initiating the debate on the bill Mrs Kanak Mukherjee (CPI-M) objected to the haste with which the bill was being considered though she was in favour of it.

The evils of dowry and prostitution cannot be done away with passing laws. Social, cultural and educational level of women must be raised for the success of any legislation, she said.

Mr Renu A Chowdhary (Telugu Desam) pointed out that it was the Hindus who were burning their women. Amendments to the Hindu Succession Act must be brought about to prevent this.

Mrs Jayanthi Natarajan (Cong) said all laws were based on totally patriarchal ideology. Total equality was the only solution to end this menace.

Dr Bapu Kaldate (Janata) said more women should be represented on the social welfare boards.

Mr J P Yadav (BJP) said all out efforts must be made to bring abut reforms in the society and improvement in the status of women.

Mr Ram Avedesh Singh (Lok Dal) said the feeling of insecurity among women must be removed for the success of any legislation.

[Box, p 5]

The (un)enlightened

Does a person become more enlightened about the evils of dowry with a higher level of education?

"The answer is to the contrary. The more, the educated, the bridegroom demands a higher dowry", Union Minister of State for Women Margaret Alva, told the Rajya Sabha on Friday while replying to a discussion on the Dowry Prohibition Amendment Bill, reports PTI.

She said the rates for dowry increased if the groom was an IAS or IFS officer or if he had a green card for working in the United States.

The Minister said this was beautifully brought out by a young girl recently in a painting competition where she had drawn grooms labelling them as IAS and IFS with price tags around their necks.

/13046
CSO: 4600/0001

PUNJAB REPORTED TO HAVE 'ALARMING' SURFEIT OF GRAINS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Aug 86 p 7

[Article by Surinder Sud]

[Text] CHANDIGARH, August 30.

PUNJAB, the country's granary, may soon become the graveyard of grains. More foodgrains are produced and procured by official agencies every year than can be moved out of the state for consumption elsewhere.

Annually, about 1.5 million tonnes of grains are left behind in the state itself. The backlog accumulated over the years has already crossed the 10-million-tonne mark. If this trend continues for a few years more, as seems likely because of the sustained rise in wheat and rice production, a situation may arise when there would be no choice but to let the piled up stocks rot in situ it is feared.

At present, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies are holding a foodgrain stock of nearly 11 million tonnes in a tiny border state of Punjab. This represents more than one-third of the country's total grain inventory. Another bumper paddy harvest is only a few weeks away.

Not withstanding the disturbed conditions, the crop situation in Punjab is reported to be excellent. Though there were reports earlier of farmers facing difficulties in irrigating their fields, especially in the border belt due to the frequent imposition of curfew, the situation is said to have improved now. Copious rains in the past few weeks have made up for the inadequacy of irrigation.

The grain glut in the neighbouring state of Haryana has not attained an alarming position as yet, though ominous portents can already be perceived. The grain inventories in Haryana have started showing up since last year due largely to the preference given to Punjab in the allotment of railway wagons to clear stocks. Total foodgrain inventories, which used to be merely three to five lakh tonnes on April 1 every year, jumped to 1.5 million tonnes in 1985 and further to nearly 1.8 million tonnes this year.

The country can obviously ill-afford an inventory build-up of this order in the region. Experts view these grain mountains as virtually "dead stocks" as they can just not be transported to consuming areas. The most formidable constraint in grain movement is the limited wagon availability and track capacity of railways. The wagons carrying grains to all the nooks and corners of the country from the north-western border state have mostly to come back empty.

The railways are said to be making every effort to utilise their capacity optimally but even with the best endeavour, they could move a maximum of only 8.8 million tonnes of grains from Punjab last year. This was a record. But considering that total procurement was over 10.5 million tonnes, the otherwise creditable performance of the railways looked inadequate. Road transport, which can supplement the railways' effort, has its own limitations and can therefore be used only to a limited extent for short-duration haulage.

Indeed, grain accumulation in Punjab is now causing concern. Besides locking up thousands of crores of rupees in the form of grains, a huge recurring expenditure has to be borne to maintain the stocks. The average annual carrying cost works out to about Rs. 500 a tonne, totalling over Rs. 500 crores for a stock of 10 million tonnes.

The ever-bulging grain coffers demand continuous expansion of storage space. Good agriculture land is therefore being increasingly diverted from crop farming to construction of warehouses. A 10,000-tonne capacity open storage complex needs

nearly three acres of land. Since public grain agencies hire storage accommodation on a fairly high rent, many farmers are tempted to make easy money this way. The FCI pays Rs. 16,800 a month for hiring each such complex.

Experts have now started questioning the judiciousness of keeping huge foodgrain stocks at a place where they can neither be consumed locally, nor despatched for consumption elsewhere. The opinion is now veering round to the concept of diversifying the crop pattern in Punjab to reduce dependence on two cereal crops—wheat and rice.

An experts' committee appointed by the Punjab government under the chairmanship of the noted farm economist, Dr. S. S. Johl, maintained in its report submitted recently that at least 20 per cent of the area now under wheat and rice needed to be diverted to other crops. Though at the existing level of productivity and prices, no other crop can compete with wheat and rice in profitability, some crops have the potential to replace these cereals if their productivity and support prices are suitably enhanced.

These include sugarcane, rapeseed and mustard, arhar (tur), moong and soyabean. Besides, alternatives like animal husbandry, horticulture and forestry should be explored to impart the much-needed diversity to the agriculture sector.

/13046
CSO: 4600/0011

FADHALLAH: SUPERPOWERS AIM TO CRUSH INFLUENCE OF ISLAM

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jul 86 pp 1, 24

[Text] Beirut-IRNA: Alame(The Learned)Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadhallah, the valiant Lebanese clergy, invited Muslims to unity during this week's Friday Prayer in Beirut and said that the new conspiracy involving Lebanon's local factions, regional and world powers is under way to crush Islam's influence in the area.

In his remarks, he pointed to East and West's fear of Islamic revolution's power and reminded that the secret of the success of Iran's Islamic revolution has been Muslim people's unity and Imam Khomeyni's decisive leadership.

Alame(The Learned) Fadhallah who was speaking at the Imam Reza Mosque in Beirut's Southern suburbs condemned instigators of the crisis in Lebanon--whether Left or Right.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of the Islamic Unity's Movement of Lebanon, in this week's Friday sermons held at 'Abi-Samra' mosque in the city of Tripoli in the North of Lebanon, warned America against crushing oppressed nations, indicating that adherence to this policy is the only way Americans can be amune from reprisals in the world.

Shaykh Sa'id, moreover, pointed to racist attitudes of Oppression and Zionism and said that whereas the West cites as violation of human rights the taking of some of its citizens as hostages and considers it as a grave danger for the world, it does not stop at any criminal act against Muslims of Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, Palestine, Libya, Sudan and others in an attempt to achieve its unlawful aims.

He added that more regretable is that by accepting this policy, some have acted positively to the American Senate; And through implementing it in their own country, they are trying to seek a position of esteem with America. This being at a time when thousands of other human beings who do not have senates and propaganda machines have no news at all about their relatives' situations who are in Phalangist and Israeli dungeons.

Shaykh Sa'id, then, referred to escalating crises and military-economic wars in Lebanon and added that in Lebanon as bullets are aimed at the chests of

the oppressed, economic crisis also threatens only people of low income with poverty and hunger. Therefore, the only way to end these atrocities is to aim the bullets at the Israelis so that the leaders of this regime sensing danger would stop their conspiracies against the people.

1284/12947
CSO: 4640/422

OIL MINISTER ELABORATES ON MOSCOW TALKS

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Aug 86 pp 4.2

[Article: "USSR D ecreases Its Oil Exports to Western Europe"]

[Text] Tehran--IRNA--Follwoing his return from Moscow, the oil minister stated that the Soviet Union has announced its intention to reduce oil exports to Western Europe by 100,000 barrels a day. The Soviets announced this following the brief negotiations of Iranian delegates in Moscow.

After his return to Tehran last Thursday afternoon, Aqazadeh said in an interview: "The Soviet officials have emphasized their complete cooperation with OPEC members in regard to the recent decision by this organization."

He added: "The Soviet decision to reduce oil production will be carried out in September and October as in the OPEC decision. The plot for reducing oil prices has been diagnosed as an important movement from the view of Soviet officials and they have announced their readiness to neutralize it."

According to Aqazadeh, Soviet collaboration with the recent OPEC decision to reduce the production ceiling to 16 million barrels a day has a great probability of improving the oil market.

According to the IRNA reporter, in this interview, the Iranian oil minister elaborated on the positive and construction discussions held by the two countries in regard to the export of Iranian gas via Soviet pipelines.

Aqazadeh said: During the next 3 months, specialists of both countries will carefully study the possibilities for Iran providing gas to be consumed in the south of the USSR and also the export of Iranian gas to Western Europe via existing pipelines between the two countries."

According to him, the next talk will take place after the study by the specialists of both countries. He emphasized Iran's seriousness in regard to the export of gas.

The other issue of the talks by the Iranian delegates in Moscow was the question of extracting oil from the south of the Caspian Sea and according to Aqazadeh the Soviets have promised full cooperation.

He added: "Iran is determined to generate revenues from the existing rich oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea and Soviet facilities in the north of the Caspian Sea, especially in regard to a excavation installation, will be studied."

He added: "It has been arranged that next month at the latest, a distinguished program of cooperation between the two countries regarding the sale and rent of the excavation installation will be prepared." During his visit in Moscow, the oil minister met with the prime minister, foreign trade officials, and the Soviet Foreign Relations Committee deputy.

He said: "The meetings of the Iranian delegates in Moscow were very positive and constructive. This was especially so during the visit with the Soviet premiere where the different dimensions of the political and economic relations of the two countries were studied in detail."

In his visit with Aqazadeh, the Soviet premiere told him that there is no obstacle for the expansion of Iran-Soviet relations.

Quoting from a Iranian delegate source, our correspondent reports that is very serious about the export of gas and the talks in Moscow have b studied from a positive view.

This source also indicated that the Soviet Union has expressed its support for all movements by the those nations which take steps toward their national interests.

Press Interview of the Oil Minister

Economic Service: After his return from the USSR, Mr Aqazadeh explained the results of this trip this morning in a press, radio and television interview.

First he said: "With attention to the USSR position in the world and that country's announcement to not raise oil production and with attention to news agency reports that the USSR intends to increase oil production and some other questions, we decided to meet and discuss matters with Soviet officials. The first and most important issue in our discussions with the Soviet officials was OPEC and the United States role in reducing oil prices. In those negotiations, we realized that the Islamic Republic and the USSR analyses are very similar. Lengthy negotiations with the Soviet deputy of foreign trade resulted in the signing of a mutual note. This note covers four important areas including the Soviet Union's agreement with OPEC decisions, mutual cooperation for oil drilling from the Caspian Sea and also the export of Iran's gas to the USSR."

He added: "This note states that the Iranian party has informed the Soviet party of the latest oil changes and asked that country to reduce its oil exports to the capitalist countries by 100,000 barrels a day. In support of the

campaign by the Third World nations against imperialism, the Soviet party agreed with this suggestion and added that in the months of September and October, it will reduce its oil exports to the capitaist countries."

In the continuation of his interview, the oil minister added: "The agreement creates the grounds for the coordination and expansion of relations between the two countries in the area of oil. With attention to Norway's increase of oil production, the decrease of Soviet exports by 100,000 barrels a day is very important for the OPEC producing countries."

In another part of his talk, the oil minister said: "In our opinion, by refraining from discussing questions like the oil price war, one can easily reach an agreement in negotiations with non-OPEC member countries." He added: "The Soviet cooperation as a superpower indicates the OPEC campaign against America. The cooperation of the Soviets with OPEC indicates the real anti-imperialistic campaign of the USSR and this aspect of our negotiations was more important than its economic aspects." Aqazadeh said: "Based on the fact that USSR exports to the capitalist countries is 2.5 to 3 percent of world production, the 100,000 barrels a day will have an effective role in the increase of oil prices.

"Also, with attention to the fact that the Western newspapers tried hard to create a fragile situation for future oil relations and also took advantage of the USSR, our closeness with the USSR has a special importance."

In another part of his speech in regard to the export of Iranian gas to the USSR and the use of the USSR's pipelines for exporting gas to Europe he said: "In 1979 (1358) Iranian gas exports to the USSR were interrupted with attention to the operational and planned projects, Iran has sufficient potential for exporting gas and to make better use of its potential, intends to use these possibilities."

He added: "In these negotiations, we discussed our proposed gas export schedule with the Soviets and both parties agreed that a mutual technical committee should study the different conditions during the next 3 months in order to prepare a contract for the export of Iranian gas and the use of the USSR's pipelines for the export of Iranian gas to Europe."

He continued and said: "The next subject was cooperation in oil drilling operations and gas exploration in the Caspian Sea. Since the Soviets have great technical resources in the northern and central parts of the Caspian Sea, it is to our benefit to use these facilities through rent, contract or purchase. After realizing that Iran has put this project out to tender, the Soviets announced their approval for cooperation in oil and gas exploration activities. It was agreed that after the visit of Iranian specialists in September of this year, they will take measures for preparing a contract between the two countries. Also in these negotiations, Iran announced its readiness to export 100,000 tons of sulphur a year and 1 million tons of crude oil a year to the USSR."

The oil minister then referred to the current question about OPEC and said: "We have observed the background for cooperation and commitments of the various countries and so far almost all the members of OPEC have announced their readiness for reducing the oil production ceiling. Not only were we satisfied with the decision of the member countries of OPEC but we also tried to contact non-OPEC member countries in order to attract their support. So far, Malaysia, Brunei, Mexico, and the USSR have announced their support for the recent OPEC decisions. There is no negative point preventing the execution of the OPEC decision. Besides Iran, other OPEC members have been active in attracting the support of the non-OPEC producing countries."

In response to the question of whether America's accumulation of oil reserves will disrupt the OPEC decisions he said: "Because of the methodical contrast of the United States with the OPEC member countries, that country's move for oil reserves will not have a decisive effect on the increase of oil prices."

In regard to the 200 million barrels of excess oil on the market and its effect on preventing an increase in oil prices, he said: "The OPEC decision showed its effect even before its execution and approval in the OPEC session and also with attention to the fact that 10 days still remain until the execution of the OPEC decision, today the price of oil has increased to 16 dollars."

9815/6662
CSOP 4640/477

IRNA COMMENTS ON RESUMPTION OF GAS EXPORTS TO USSR

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Aug 86 p 4

[Text] Iran and the USSR have agreed to study the possibilities for resuming Iranian gas exports to the USSR and sending gas to Western Europe via the USSR. This subject was announced after a 3-day visit by Mr Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the Iranian oil minister, with Soviet officials in the USSR.

In his report about this, the IRNA correspondent writes that Iran is seriously considering the export of gas and the rational attitude of the Soviet party in negotiations with the Iranian party, indicates a hopeful background for co-operation between both sides.

Our correspondent writes in his report: When the news of the trip by Iran's oil minister to the Soviet Union was announced on Monday last week, the subject of resuming gas exports to the USSR was again anticipated by both sides. In last year's trip to Tehran by the Soviet deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this subject was also studied but the discussions mainly dealt with evaluating the views of both sides. The main reason for Iran's economic officials emphasizing the export of gas is based on using the foreign exchange income of this deal. Since Iran is planning on generating various sources of foreign exchange income, special attention has been paid to this subject. Even before the plot for the decline of oil prices, the thought of gas exports had arisen.

Iran's history of gas exports abroad only goes back to the Igat One pipeline which was extended in 1970 (1349) from the south of our country to the USSR and from there to Europe. The maximum amount of gas exports prior to the cessation of the work of this pipeline was around 25 million cubic meters per day. The price of this gas was cheap compared to international prices. After Iran's disagreement with the USSR over gas prices in 1979, gas exports to that country were interrupted.

In his trip to the Soviet Union last week, Mr Aqazadeh suggested that Iran's natural gas exports to the USSR will be resumed again and the possibilities for transporting gas via the USSR to Western European countries will be studied.

The Soviet party announced their readiness for the possibility of the resumption of Iranian gas exports. Prior to its serious and official negotiations

regarding gas exports, Iran had signed a preliminary agreement for establishing a gas pipeline to Europe via Turkey with officials of that country. Iran's rich gas resources are the second largest natural gas resources in the world. The nation's officials are determined to generate suitable foreign exchange income from these resources.

In response to a question posed to the Iranian delegates visiting Moscow of how the Soviet reacted to the question of gas exports, they mentioned: "There has never been such a serious and rational negotiation in the field of gas with the Soviets and they announced their readiness for any kind of cooperation. The Soviet officials asked Iran that if gas exports are resumed to the USSR, they be without interruption. It seems the Soviet officials are looking for a long-term agreement with strong mutual commitments for the execution of the agreement under any conditions since part of this gas is planned to be consumed in southern USSR.

Iran has also stated that from December 1986, it will export 3 million cubic meters of gas per day to the USSR with 80 to 90 million cubic meters gas per day being exported to the USSR by March 1990, provided that the marketing and the price of the exported gas is based on some ratio of the world rate. The requirements for exporting this amount of gas is the operation of the new gas resources and an increase in the capacity of internal gas refining. Reports and statistics related to the activities of the National Gas Company indicate an improvement in the operational activities related to operations and gas drilling in the south and northern regionsof the country. Part of the gas mines in the Sarakhs region are jointly held with the USSR and the operation of these joint gas mines will have priority.

The gas export-policy of Iran is based on priority being given to neighboring countries in need of gas and excess gas will be exported to other countries especially Europe. As before, gas will be delivered from the Iran-Turkey pipeline to many Turkish regions and from the Igat One pipeline to some parts of the southern region of the USSR. In any case, specialists of both countries must study the Iqat One pipeline stiatuion over the next 3 months until November 1986 and present a technical report. Following that, a strong probability exists that the officials of both sides will hold a joint meeting for a final discussion. From now, we can be optimistic about the results of these negotiations.

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CSO: 4640/473

TALKS WITH PRC ON FISHING TRADE ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 86 p 1

[Text] The ambassador of the People's Republic of China and his companions, who had traveled to Gilan to study the economic relations in various areas between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC, accompanied by some companions and the deputy governor general of Gilan, visited the general fisheries department of Gilan Province and were welcomed by the director general of Golan fisheries and the governor of that city.

(Wang Wan Zu), the ambassador of the PRC, concerning the aim of this visit to Gilan, said: In Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to China last year, certain agreements were made in economic areas, including an agreement about fishery products, increasing and catching various kinds of fish, and net making. At the present, we have come to Bandar Anzali to study the activities of the Gilan fisheries.

He added: At the present, we have sent several ships from China to Bandar 'Abbas, which are engaged in fishing.

(Wan Zu) also said: In another meeting of the deputy prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Chinese authorities, close cooperation in the area of fishing and raising fish was agreed upon. For this purpose, experts will be sent to Iran in the future who will take steps towards raising fish in fresh waters as well.

He added: At the present, 4 million tons of fish are caught in China annually, and we have the same potential in the fresh waters.

The ambassador of the PRC then referred to the waters of the southern part of the country and said: According to most Chinese experts, the Persian Gulf and the southern waters of Iran have rich reserves. By making use of these waters, you can have a bright future for fisheries.

He then added: Iran and China, considering their long relationship, may sign agreements in all areas, which we would welcome.

He also added: You emphasize expansion of relations with the Third World countries and, like you, we also consider relations with the Third World to be a sensitive point in our foreign policy. Given that a history of relations between Iran and China have existed for several thousands of years, we can have good relations in the future based on equality and mutual interests.

On this visit, Adib, the director general of the fisheries of Gilan Province, expressed hope for relations between the two countries and said: We are also hopeful that we will create economic relations in the area of expanding and increasing the aquatic resources, because, considering the growth that we have had since the Islamic revolution in the area of increasing, raising and catching fish, we will be able to have cooperation in the area of exchanging experiences and sciences and sending experts.

According to this report, (Wang Wan Zu) and his companions then visited the production facilities of the fish powder factory, the research agency, the ship-building workshops, and the caviar manufacturing center of the fisheries of Gilan Province.

10,000
CSO: 4640/2

SPAIN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA PROPOSE EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL TIES

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Aug 86 p 15

[Text] Economic Service--According to a Ministry of Commerce public relations report, Mr Jose Maria Sebira, the Spanish ambassador to the Islamic Republic, met yesterday afternoon with the commerce minister, Mr Ja'fari.

In this meeting, the Spanish ambassador announced his country's interest in expanding commercial and economic relations with the Islamci Republic of Iran. He indicated that with the participation of 38 Spanish institutions, Spain will have an effective part in Tehran's International Exhibition this year. He called the participation an example of Spain's interest in strengthening and expanding relations with Iran.

He added: "There are vast possibilities for industrial cooperation as well as the transfer of technical knowledge in different fields between Iran and Spain." He also indicated that Spain is very well aware of Iran's new economic policies and is willing to purchase some of Iran's non-oil products. Therefore, he requested that Iranian experts visit Spain to market and sell Iran's non-oil products to Spain. In addition, he invited our country's minister of commerce to officially visit Spain at an appropriate time.

The minister of commerce also emphasized the expansion of all relations between the two nations and stated that there are plenty of possibilities for the expansion of relations between the two countries, especially for the sale of non-oil products to Spain. He demanded that both nations use their efforts to take advantage of existing capacities for the benefit of both countries, Iran and Spain.

Visit and Discussion With the Ambassador of Czechoslovakia

Mr Milan Macha, the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, met and conferred with Mr Ja'fari yesterday afternoon. In this visit, he discussed relations between the two countries. During this visit, the Czechoslovakian ambassador referred to the active participation of this country in the 12th Tehran International Exhibition and the trip by a trade and economic delegation from Czechoslovakia headed by the undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce during the Tehran International Exhibition to Tehran. He also announced his country's interest in expanding commercial,

scientific, and industrial ties with Iran and requested an increase in the volume of trade between the two countries. He also announced his country's willingness to participate in mutual commercial and economic sessions between Iran and Czechoslovakia which will be held in Tehran in the near future.

In explaining the new economic plans of the country during this meeting, Mr Ja'fari expressed the mutual interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the expansion of ties and cooperation with Czechoslovakia which has maintained good relations with Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution. He reiterated that due to several reasons, Czechoslovakia could be one of the fine and reputable commercial parties of Iran, and to offset Iran's capital goods imports, purchase non-oil products from Iran. In addition, Czechoslovakia can cooperate with Iran in scientific research and especially agricultural and industrial fields.

9815/6662
CSO: 4640/478

HAJJ PILGRIMS URGED TO INFORM OTHERS OF 'WORLD OPPRESSION'

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Jul 86 p 4

[Text] Jahrom-JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reporter--Hojjat Ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Mahdavi-Karubi, Imam's representative and supervisor for the Foundation of the Martyrs of the Islamic revolution arrived in Jahrom yesterday morning and was welcomed by the local officials of this city. First he visited this city's Ferdows and Rezvan martyrs cemetery and reciting the prayer for the dead, he paid tribute to this city's martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war. Hojjat ol-Eslam Karubi, then, entered this city's Jame' Mosque in the midst of chants of 'Praise be unto Mohammad, and welcome be unto Imam's comrade' to meet with the honored families of the martyrs. At this ceremony attended by Jahrom's people's Deputy to the Islamic Majlis, after the welcoming speech by one of the officials of Jahrom's Foundation of the Martyrs, the martyrs' children's chorus performed a ballad. Then the message of greetings from the honored families of the martyrs was read by one of the martyr's offspring. In this message, Mr Karubi was requested to offer to the Imam the sincere and warm greetings of the families of the martyrs, those lost in battle, the prisoners of war, the self-sacrificing, and the martyr-fostering people of Jahrom, and--if possible--to arrange for their audience with His Excellency the Imam. During this ceremony, Imam's representative and supervisor for the Foundation of the Martyrs of the Islamic revolution engaged in personal conversation with the honored families of the martyrs and presented the martyrs' children with some presents also.

After participating in the politico-devotional Friday Prayer in Jahrom, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karubi delivered a detailed speech during the hiatus between the two prayers, according to the same report. Paying tribute to the sacrifices of the honored families of the martyrs, he addressed issues regarding the imposed war, the pilgrimage ceremony and our country's critical and momentous present situation. Regarding the huge Hajj Congress, Imam's representative and the supervisor for Iranian pilgrims stated, "We must take full advantage of the Hajj ceremony, and it is the Iranian pilgrim's duty to draw the attention of the pilgrims from other countries of the world to world oppression and to introduce to them the enemies of Islam. By a decree from the people's Imam, you are to participate extensively in the great procession which will take place in Saudi Arabia against America, Israel, the Soviet Union and world oppression." He added, "I declare again that Saudi Arabia's Interior Minister has announced that this year they will not allow demonstrations and procession to take place, and we will here declared that' we do not participate in demonstrations by your order; rather, we will walk in a procession by Imam's decree, and we heed only Imam's words and it is his command that we obey.

UNIVERSITY QUOTAS ANNOUNCED FOR CHILDREN OF WAR CASUALTIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 86 pp 1-2

> [Text] Five percent of the capacity of all various academic fields of the universities and higher education institutions in the country for the 1365-1366 [1986-87] academic year is allocated to the children of the martyrs, the disabled, the missing, and the prisoners of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education announced: Following the decree of the imam, to foster the growth of the talents and creativity of the children of the martyrs, the disabled, the missing, and the prisoners of the Islamic revolution, who will participate in the student selection examinations of the universities and higher education institutions of the country in the 1365-66 [1986-87] academic year, and in order to provide the necessary facilities for their entry, a maximum of up to 5 percent of the capacities of various academic fields of the universities and higher education institutions, in addition to the capacity of the fields announced in "Booklet No 3" (a guide to choosing academic fields) and "Booklet No 4" (identifying higher education fields and procedures for selecting a field), will be allocated to these beloved individuals.

The honorable children of the martyrs, the disabled, the missing, and the prisoners of the Islamic revolution may choose their fields according to the ranks acquired in each test group (in the quotas for the families of martyrs) and with consideration for the allocated capacity in every field and the regulations for student admission in every field. Obviously, a minimum grade will be determined for the admission of these beloved students in various academic fields of the universities and higher education institutions of the country. (The minimum grade in every field must not be lower than the minimum grade of the person with the lowest score admitted in other fields).

Those admitted whose grades in one or more selected field are below the grade required will be selected and introduced to the universities for other fields appropriate to their academic and physical conditions, after the necessary investigations are made.

Also, it is recommended to this group of beloved applicants that, considering the educational resources of the higher education institutes in Esfahan, Tabriz, Tehran, Shiraz and Mashhad, they try to choose academic fields in which they are interested in the higher education institutes in those cities, if possible.

Also, the conclusion of this announcement states: All the educational expenditures of this group of beloved students, once they have been admitted, will be provided by the Foundation for the Oppressed and paid to the universities.

10,000
CSO: 4640/2

'KHOMEYNIYEH' SAID TO BE NEW SECT INITIATED BY IMAM

London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Aug 86 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Shaykh Mohammad Osman: Khomeyni's move has the specification of an independent religion.

Zeynab al-Qazali: When I see Khomeyni's picture, I say "Oh God, forgive your sinful servants!"

The number one source of imitation of Shiism is a prisoner of the Iraqi Army in Najaf.

The name of Ayatollah Khomeyni, the schemer and leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Republic in Iran, will possibly be mentioned as the founder of a new religion, probably called "Khomeyniyeh," and will enter history. This is the thesis presented to the clerics of Indonesia by an Indonesian Muslim researcher, Shaykh Mohammad Osman Neydbrum. Shaykh Mohammad states: "The movement created by Khomeyni is inspired by some of Islam's teachings. But at the same time, it has the particularities and qualities of an independent religion. As time passes, we will see something called the 'Khomeyniyeh' sect formed within Islamic civilization."

The question of whether the teachings of Jamaran Ayatollah have really become a new religion or sect is discussed by other Eastern and Western Islamic scholars. In its future editions, the Soviet encyclopedia will implicitly answer this question by introducing the founder of the Republic in Iran as the inventor of a new religious sect in Islam. In Turkey, the Encyclopedia of Historic Personalities in its latest edition also refers to Khomeyni's role in the introduction of a new branch of the Islamic religion.

Leo Branslow, an American researcher, has also done comprehensive research into the "newly established religion inspired by Islam" which is being formed through the Ayatollah's writings and actions. He presents the confidential 1984 negotiations in Cairo between 93 distringuished Islamic scholars. During the course of these negotiations, a few of the Saudi scholars suggested that the literary works and actions by the revolutionary Ayatollah be officially

condemned as a revolt against the Islamic and Mohammadan religion. The Egyptian scholars called his action hasty but did not completely reject it. The influence of an anti-Khomeyni Iranian Ayatollah concerned about a confrontation between Sunni and Shiite sects, caused this proposal to fall into abeyance.

Professor Shams al-Quom, an Islamologist from Bangladesh, does not study Khomeyni's actions within the framework of religion. He believes that the Ayatollah is a political leader who uses religion for the advancement of his political goals. He states: "For example, General Huseyn Ershad, the military president of Bangladesh, has estabished a political party. We cannot assume that since the founder and leader of this party is a military man, that it is also a military movement."

The Qualification of New Religion

During its Islamic history, Iran has been the birthplace of many religious sects with almost all of them claiming at the beginning of their activities that they have no purpose except reviving Islamic vaoues. Petrovsky, the Soviet Islamologist, has prepared a list of more than 1,800 religious sects established in Islamic Iran. Many of these sects were gradually abolished, some became a sort of religious order and were like secret societies, and some of these sects like "Yazidieh" in the 16th century and "Babiyeh" in the 19th century, later became independent religions.

The mutual aspects of these sects can be summarized as follows:

1. All the sects rely on one leader who claims that he is the only one who has felt the reality of Islam.

2. The leader of the sect claims that Islam has never been truly executed and it is only he who can execute the orders of Islam.

3. The name of the leader is mentioned on the same level as the name of the prophet of Islam (may God send greetings to him).

4. All the sects begin by exercising force and harshness and they frequently become introverted and secluded from society.

5. The discussed sects have their own special slogans and signs and insist on being distinct from the swarm of other Muslims.

All of these aspects are seen in Khomeyni's moves. Khomeyni has claimed several times that others have not perceived Islamd and it is his duty to make them understand the reality of Islam. He also claims that even at the time of the prophet, Islam was never truly executed and only in his republic, can Islam be truly executed. Khomeyni introduces his movement with the name of Hezbollah in order to distinguish it from the other swarm of Muslims. In Hezbollah slogans, the name of Khomeyni is frequently seen next to the name of Allah without mentioning the name of Islam's prophet (may God send greetings to him)

or the name of any of the Shiite Imams. For example, "God is great, Khomeyni is the leader," "There is only one God, greetings to Ruhollah," "God is unique, Khomeyni is the leader," "The only party is Hezbollah, the only leader is Ruhollah," "Here I am Oh Khomeyni," "God, Koran, Khomeyni," and "All of us are Khomeyni."

In all of the demonstrations and religious ceremonies of the Khomeyniyeh sect followers, the name, pictures, and quotations of the leader are seen more than the name, pictures and quotations of the prophet (greetings to him), and Shiite Imams. The slogans that he presents are on the same level as the primary slogans of Islam and are even frequently repeated at a higher level than them.

Mehdi of the 1980's

A distinguished Pakistani journalist who does not want his name revealed for fear of being assassinated states: "Many of Khomeyni's followers secretly believe that he is the expected Mehdi but due to some cautious reason, he does not want to announce this at the present time." This journalist adds: "In a lengthy interview with Fakhreddin Hejazi, the deputy of the Islamic Majlis, he implicitly told me that Khomeyni is the Medhi (the absent 12th Imam) and very soon he will reveal his true identity."

Part of the rumor surrounding Khomeyni's being Medhi in Iran is probably made by Khomeyni himself since he knows very well that in order to protect his domination over the illiterate masses there is no other way except to open some shutters to the mysteries of metaphysics. For example, he insists that the title of Imam be used for him. Ayatollah Morteza Motahari, who was assassinated in the first year of the revolution, was opposed to the use of the title Imam for Khomeyni and he never used it himself until the victory of the revolution. Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, the first president of Khomeyni, was also doubtful about using the title of Imam for Khomeyni. But Khomeyni himself was aware that through the use of this title, he would place himself at a higher level than the mullahs at his level.

The Pakistani journalist who has visited Iran several times during the last 7 years and knows the Persian language very well, has been witness to the mullahs' propaganda in several villages. He states: "I was witness to the creation of a new religion in several villages around Isfahan. Everything started and ended with the name of Khomeyni. The believers must kiss his picture. Then, in the city of Isfahan, I saw the military marching and passing by a gigantic picture of Khomeyni. Not once did I hear the name of Mohammad (may God send greetings to him) or 'Ali (peace be upon him) in these visits."

Mrs Zeynab al-Qazali, one of the prominent leaders of Ekhvan ol-Moslemin, believes that the "separation of his account from other Muslims" is the beginning of a new sect. Al-Qazali says: "The extremists who have divided

Muslims into two groups of good and bad and certainly consider themselves as good, have in reality become separated from the main structure of the Islamic religion. In Islam, contrary to traditional Christianity, excommunication does not exist." Al-Qazali added: "Ekhvan ol-Moslemin know their leaders as servants of the religion and nothing else, and never worship their name and pictures. When I see the picture of Khomeyni with the Koran in his hand and the luster of extreme holiness shining around his turban, the only thing that somes to my mind is to say 'Oh God, forgive your sinful servants.'"

Danger for a Historic Agreement

Many Shiite scholars, especially in Iran, now realize that Khomeyni's movement is going completely in the direction of transforming into a religious sect. Many lengthy reports about this have been sent to Grand Ayatollah Abul Qasem Mussavi Khoiie, the number one source of imitation in the Shiite sect, who is actually a prisoner of the Iraqi Army in his own house. Grand Ayatollah Shahab ol-Din Huseyni Marashi Najafi, the number two source of imitation in the Shiite sect, has also expressed his concern for the believers of Shiism as a result of the extraordinary activities of Khomeyni.

The list of Khomeyni's innovations by Khomeyni can be very long. He has entered the world "revolution" and the tenor of "republic," which cannot be discussed as Islamic religious principles. In Islam, the world "movement" is always used instead of the world "revolution," whereas from a governmental viewpoint, "caliphate" or "monarchy" are discussed and not "republic" which is a Greek and Roman reflection and is completely alien to Islam.

In 1947, a historic agreement was signed in Cario. According to this agreement, the Shiites believing in the twelve Imams, were recognized by the Sunni society as a legitimate religion of Islam.

The schemers of this great historic agreement were Shaykh Shaltout, the president of Al-Azhar University in Cairo and a young Iranian cleric called Shaykh Mohammad Hojatt ol-Eslam Qomi. According to this agreement, the Taqrib Islamic movement was formed in order to solve the disputes among the Muslims and it reapidly became an important force in the Islamic world.

But the historic agreement of Cairo was met from the beginning by the opposition of extremists from both camps. After the establishment of the Republic in Iran, some of the extremist Sunni scholars demanded the nullification of the agreement of Taqrib in order to start the customary war against the Shiite believers of the twelve Imams. In rejecting this movement of the Sunni extremists, the Shiite leaders stated: "Whatever Khomeyni does is his own particular political activity and he has no connection to the religion of the Shiite believers."

If the discussion about the announcement of Khomeyniyeh emerging as a new sect has any result, then probably the question of beginning an active dispute between Sunni and Shiite will not occur. Also, the Muslims will be able to explain for world public opinion that Khomeyniyeh cannot be the goal of all Islam just as the various Christian sects like Moonies and Jehovah's Witnesses cannot be considered the same as all Christianity.
9815/6662
CSO: 4640/441

OFFICIAL DENIES LIMITATIONS ON TRAVEL ABROAD

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] Javad Mansuri, the consular and cultural deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an interview with IRNA, announced that the rumor concerning the limitation on travel abroad as groundless.

The consular and cultural deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: Profiteering elements try, through ill-intentioned propaganda and provocation, to encourage and persuade those individuals who have continued to preserve the decadent past culture and feel the values of the Islamic Republic to be in conflict with their personal taste to go abroad.

He added: In this direction, those who want to take advantage of the situation escalate certain rumors in the society to achieve their objectives.

Javad Mansuri described the rumor of the admission of the citizens of our country by Arab countries due to the duration of the war to be groundless and false. And, concerning the rumor of the closure of borders, he said: There is no reason for such an action. Respect for international rights is a policy accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and there are no restrictions on traveling abroad.

The consular deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers rumors spread in this area to be in line with the ill-intentioned provocations of the enemies of the Islamic Republic and said: The reports available about the condition of Iranians abroad indicate their disastrous condition, to which they themselves openly confess.

He added: Most individuals who are now living abroad are severely humiliated by the society in which they live. These individuals pass their humiliating lives in exile by getting rations from churches and special organizations that support the poor.

Javad Mansuri said: Mistreatment of such individuals by smugglers and merchants of corruption because of their poverty increases every day, and in order to make a living, these individuals are forced to submit to any sort of humiliation. However, despite this problem, unfortunately, some of our

compatriots, not realizing the ill effects of their leaving their homeland, on the basis of these rumors and with the promises made by charlatans, are attracted to this way of life. While we persuade them that the Islamic Republic of Iran wants to preserve the dignity and honor of its citizens abroad, we announce that there are no restrictions on their leaving the country.

At the same time, the ASSOCIATED PRESS reported yesterday that a 26-year-old Iranian girl, who had been working as a servant in an American home in the suburbs of New York, was murdered last Friday after having been, most likely, raped.

Concerning the return to Iran of Iranians abroad, Javad Mansuri said: As has been frequently announced, except for a small group who have committed severe political or criminal offenses, anyone who has left the country for any reason may return to the country without any problem.

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CSO: 4640/1

HOUSING MINISTER DETAILS NEW HOUSING PROJECTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] Bakhtaran, KEYHAN Correspondent.

In implementing the land preparation programs, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, in addition to creating urban facilities, will build 500 schools and public buildings with the key money from commercial locations.

This statement was made by Engineer Kazeruni, the minister of housing and urban development, in the opening ceremonies of the third regional gathering of the directors general of housing and urban development of nine provinces in the City Hall of Bakhtaran.

Explaining the goals of the decisions concerning the implementation of the urban land preparation programs, he said: These programs include the prevention of changing over agricultural lands; guidance in developing and regulating cities, with consideration for the annual increase of 300,000 new families over the existing number of families in the country; and creating the grounds for the participation of the people in all areas of creating housing units, particularly management. In connection with the implementation of these programs this year, he said: With the implementation of this program, 12 new urban locations are being created throughout the country.

The minister of housing and urban development then announced the total volume of the working funds that have been conferred to this ministry as 6 billion rials. And, in connection with urban land preparation, he added: The share of the funds for this year is 100 billion rials, and the total implementation of this program will include 1,000 billion rials of the people's investments.

The minister of housing and urban development also explained the role of the housing foundation in creating residential units for the most oppressed stratum of the society and said: Arrangements have been made for land to be transferred to the foundation free of charge for every residential unit which is created by this foundation.

He spoke about the new work in connection with preparing land for the construction of 500 schools funded with the key money for commercial units in

the townships which are subject to urban land programs and said: This plan will be implemented immediately.

Ilam: KEYHAN Correspondent

Engineer Serajoddin Kazeruni, the minister of housing and urban development, continuing his visit to the western part of the country, arrived in Ilam. On this visit, the minister of housing and urban development visited the developmental projects of the province, such as the hospital of the university complex, the animal husbandry college of Ilam Province, and the organizational houses which are being built by the department of housing and urban land development of Ilam Province.

Engineer Kazeruni participated in a gathering of a large number of people of Ilam, who had come to the congregational mosque of that city, and in a speech, praised and thanked them for the self-sacrifice and resistance of the brave people of Ilam.

Then he met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi, the representative of the imam and the Friday imam of Ilam.

According to this report, the minister of housing and urban development left for Abdanan to visit the developmental activities of that area.

While meeting with the refugees of the imposed war, he visited their place of residence and gained first-hand knowledge of their needs.

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CSO: 4640/1

OIL MINISTRY OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON OIL, GAS RESERVES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 86 p 3

> [Text] Economic service. According to available statistics, the reserves of more than 340 oil wells in the country have been estimated at 37.8 billion barrels. Through the implementation of gas injection projects into the oil wells, the oil well reserves of the country will be increased by 17 billion barrels.

Yesterday, in a press, radio, and television interview, Mohammad Javad 'Asemipur, the director of the oil-rich areas of the Ministry of Petroleum, explained the duties and activities accomplished since the Islamic revolution. According to a report by KEYHAN correspondent, concerning the domination and effects of the wrong policies of the multinational companies over the oil industry of our country, he said: On the basis of the 1330 [21 March 1951-20 March 1952] agreement and the lack of authority of the national oil company over extraction, multinational companies extracted and sold more than 6 million barrels of oil per day for many years, without consideration for the protection and preservation of the resources or proper operational procedures.

He added: After the revolution, the first movement in this connection was to dissolve the multinational companies and form the administration of the oil-rich areas, active in 1,200 square km of our country land, by carrying out oil production on land, providing petroleum for all refineries, providing 95 percent of the exporting oil, and producing all the natural gas consumed in the country.

Referring to 340 wells in operation in the country, the director of the oil-rich regions of the south said: The oil which is extracted is transmitted to 38 operation units through pipelines. These units are responsible for separating the gases that accompany the oil. The accompanying gases are transformed into liquid gas in (N.G.L.) units or refining factories and are prepared for injection into the oil wells.

Also, 16 desalination units, the total capacity of which is more than 1,160,000 barrels per day, are within the jurisdiction of this administration.

Mr 'Asemi continued: According to the statistics announced, the oil discovered in the oil-rich regions amounts to about 37.8 billion barrels. By implementing the gas injection projects, which are carried out to protect and preserve the reservoirs, the oil reserves will increase by 17 billion barrels.

He pointed out: About 31.6 billion barrels of oil were extracted during the period 1349-1364 [21 March 1970-20 March 1986] from the oil-rich regions, of which amount 5 billion barrels was taken out after the revolution, a decrease of half over the last seven years of the past regime. In other words, after the revolution, between 2-3 billion barrels were extracted, and at a time when we have been faced with severe economic, political and military problems.

'Asemipur mentioned the operation of 2 units of Karanjand Paris, the capacity of which will be 500,000 barrels per day, as among the plans under way by this administration and said: These two units are in the large oil field, for which most of the needed equipment has been purchased, and are being implemented.

He pointed out another duty of the administration of the oil-rich regions, along with the protection and preservation of the oil resources, and said: We must maximize our production potential so that the regime will be able to make use of this potential whenever it finds it necessary, and we would have maneuverability. In this connection, more oil wells must be discovered, extracted and operated.

Also, in this connection, we must be able to increase our export resources to a maximum level in order to prevent vulnerability under various conditions. Fortunately, since the revolution, we have had certain movements in this regard, and for this reason, we have been able to continue the export operations despite the enemy attacks.

He said: In 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], a total budget of 70 billion rials has been projected for 829 administration projects for the oil-rich regions, of which amount, 180 billion rials [as published] will be spent on developmental and operational affairs.

The director of the oil-rich regions then referred to the gases burnt in the years prior to the revolution and added: In the past, every year, 3-4 billion cubic feet of gas was burnt, which decreased in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] to to 600 million cubic feet.

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CSO: 4640/1

HEAVY INDUSTRIES MINISTRY ANNOUNCES PLANS ON SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Jul 86 p 21

[Text] Economic Service--Two undersecretaries from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, during the course of a press interview with journalists, presented a report and discussed measures taken: to cut industry's dependence on foreign sources; to export the products of heavy industry; to counter the effects the fall in foreign currency earnings is having on industrial production; and actions by factories with regard to the employment issue.

According to KEYHAN's economic reporter, Engineer Hasan Ramazanianpur, undersecretary for Planning and Programs, and Engineer Mohsen Mehr 'Alizadeh, undersecretary for Industry and Development during the interview outlined for the journalists of the media the programs of the Ministry of Heavy Industries for countering the plot of falling oil prices.

Engineer Ramazanianpur opened by saying: "From its establishment, the Ministry of Heavy Industries has tried, to the greatest extent possible, to use domestic resources to fulfill all its essential needs, and by avoiding an expansion in industrial establishments, to direct the country toward self-sufficiency and to raise the percentage of domestically produced items."

The undersecretary for plans and programs at the Ministry of Heavy Industries said: "In order to lessen our dependency, we believe that first of all we must shape our pattern of consumption in accordance with our domestic capabilities; secondly, we must increase productivity and fill industrial vacuums; and thirdly, raise quality levels of reliablity in order to life the percentage of domestically produced items."

He added: "We can deal with dependent industries in two ways: the first way is to take the 300 billion tomans we accumulated earlier for investment and spend it abroad; the second way would be to take these funds allocated for investment and use them to the greatest extent possible, while we at the same time limit the growth of dependent industries and move toward self-sufficiency. In heavy industry we have chosen the second way."

He added: "In order to cut imports as much as possible, orders have been issued to produce 4,155 kinds of imports. Till now 803 imported items

constituting 24 percent of the total, are in the process of being produced. As of now, we have had an annual savings of 2 million dollars in foreign currency."

Engineer Ramazanianpur then said: "By using oil income for investment in industry, we have tried to increase our productivity so that during the years 1983-1985 approximately 5,700 were produced. In this connection, 30 billion tomans were invested, and activity in the industrial area is noteworthy."

With regard to the fall in oil income he then said: "By setting up a whole array of priorities and by introducing modifications in some plans, an effort has been made to adjust in the best manner possible to the limited hard currency situation. Fortunately, the limited availability of hard currency has been turned around by eliminating much imported foreign machinery from the listing of requirements by making such machinery domestically. As a result, existing inventory which is spread around the country can be used in a desirable way."

Engineer Mehr Alizadeh, undersecretary of Industry and Operations, in discussing the concept of production enterprise dependency on oil income said: "We look upon the fall in oil revenues as a good omen, and this issue, fortunately for us, is a blessing because it has caused us to make more use of our domestic means and to accelerate improvements in the industrial products of the country." The undersecretary then added: "The main point of the activities of this ministry is to build and provide parts for power plants, refineries, shipbuilding, cement and gypsum factories, and goods made by large factories within the country."

Engineer Ramazanianpur referred to the ministry's export program on parts and goods and said: "Many of the items carrying a tariff are exported by the Ministry of Industries, of which some are 100 percent produced domestically, while other things use imports which increase the price and, therefore, cost most."

He said: "Items which are exported include buses, minibuses, various trucks, Renault passenger cars, motorcycles, cars, road-building equipment, ovens, steam boilers, metal tanks and frames, aluminum castings, ball bearings, moulds, and pistons, to name a few."

He said: "Market studies have been conducted on some of the above items, and it is anticipated that the Ministry of Heavy Industries during the year 1986 will bring in 75 million dollars in hard currency from the export of these items."

The undersecretary for plans and programs, with regard to the continues operation of production enterprises and the employment situation said: "In this connection, production enterprises will be divided into four groups: The first group: enterprises which are not dependent on natural resources from abroad, or whose extent of dependency is insignificant, will continue

producing and full employment will be maintained. The second group: enterprises which, despite their need for foreign materials, in light of the fact that their production has priority and is important, like auto manufacturing or casting, will continue to produce at full capacity, and, therefore, will have no employment difficulties. The third group: enterprises which produce items for mass consumption and stimulate future industry and consumption will be maintained. However, because of limited hard currency, they may have to lower production or experience short-term stoppages. For such enterprises there will be repair, maintenance, and re-building programs; special training sessions; the launching of projects connected with the war effort, and cooperation in plans worked out by the employment committee staff of the Basij aimed at maintaining employment levels. The fourth group: enterprises whose production does not fit the industrial and consumption pattern of the future, and which, because of the high percentage of their dependency on foreign items, were necessarily removed from the production programs. In other words, the purpose is to improve domestic industrial products. For this reason, in order to replace such enterprises and to abolish employment difficulties, plans are being prepared and will soon be announced by the responsible officials."

The undersecretary for plans and programs, in conclusion confirmed that heavy industries is fully prepared to meet the problems and difficulties presented by new economic conditions. With the complete prepartion we made before, God willing, we will be able to put behind us the new economic problems and difficulties.

13041/6662
CSO: 4640/449

PRODUCTION PLANS APPROVED FOR 700 TONS OF SUGAR IN KHUZESTAN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jul 86 pp 1, 3

[Text] Economic Service-Supreme Councils of Economics and Agriculture approved the project for producing 700,000 tons of sugar in Khuzestan Province in their joint session of yesterday.

This session was chaired by Engineer Musavi, the Prime Minister and attended by relevant ministers, His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri's representative and the Chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Agriculture Committee, according to the Prime Minister's Office of Public Relations. This project which has been designed by the Research Fund for the expansion of sugar cane and related industries can render the country self-sufficient with respect to sugar production. The aforementioned project has been designed for seven thousand-hectare agriculture and industry units in Khuzestan's farmland. By implementing it and through related industries, about 200,000 tons of printing and writing paper, 100,000 tons of pulp, 700,000 tons animal feed, 100,000 (newpon) and fiber, and 20,000 tons of animal protein can be derived. Since Iran occupies a significant position with regard to production of sugar cane and Khuzestan is among the most favorable locations in the world for growing sugar cane, the success probability of this project is predicted as being very high.

At this session, after introducing the general principles of the project and voicing of various views, the substance of the project was approved as a basic project. It was decided that it would be implemented on one of the 10,000-hectare farming and industry units upon completion of the comprehensive design and implementation project. Within six months, the implementation plan would be submitted to the Council and based on the country's resources, investment plans, agreement with investors, human resources and other considerations, the detailed and implementation aspects of the aforementioned project would be studied.

12811/12947
CSO: 4640/422

GOODS, SERVICES INDEX RISES IN APRIL-MAY

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Jul 86 p 5

[Text] Goods and consumer services cost index in Iran's urban areas rose by 1.6 percent compared to last month. This index is higher by 9.5 percent compared to the index during the same month last year.

The report which was recently published by the Islamic Republic's Central Bank about the cost index for goods and consumer services in Iran's urban areas shows that in urban areas of Iran, the cost index for goods and consumer services rose to 528.6 during April-May of 1986. This index was set hypothetically at 100 in 1974. After eliminating seasonal fluctuations, the index indicates a rise of 2.4 percent relative to the previous month.

During the first two months of the current year, the average cost index for consumer goods and services rose by 7.9 percentage points compared with the same time period last year.

Based on the aforementioned report, the index for food stuff, drinks and tobacco products which had decreased by 3.3 percentage points during last April-May rose by 3.2 percent during the month under consideration in the report. During this month, the index for fruits and fresh vegetables went up by 9.4 percentage points compared with last month. The cost of fresh fruits had decreased by 14.5 percent during April-May of last year whereas it indicates an increase of 18.1 percentage points during the period under consideration.

A statistical review of the cited indices indicates that in addition to the increase in the index for fruits and fresh vegetables which has caused an increase in the index for food stuff, the increase in the price of rice has caused a deliberate decrease in the supply of rice marketed by hoarders and profiteers. This increase is about 4 percent.

Based on the same review, the cost of bread, varieties of meat, cooking oil, food at restaurants and public places, clothing, construction materials, medicine, and public transportation costs has remained relatively constant during this month. The price of different brands of cigarettes in the open market and fresh vegetables--specifically onions--which has risen considerably in recent months is now mostly offered at prices much lower than last

month. Additionally, the price for a majority of grain items, eggs in the open market, fresh flower and gold coins also decreased. Conversely, however, the cost of those products which are produced using sugar, flour and cooking oil continued its ascending trend. The price of other items such as foreign tea and turmeric increased considerably due to severe limitations in supply.

The aforementioned report indicates that the cost of household effects has also been mostly on the rise. Among these, the increase in the cost of electrical applicances, glassware and aluminum products has been high and considerable.

This review shows that the cost of all goods and non-food services increased by 4 percent during this month. Within this group, the cost of most clothing items--except wages for tailors which shows a small decrease--has followed a mild ascending trend causing the index for the clothing category to rise by 3 percent.

During the month reported, the index for construction labor costs rose by 8 percent due to increased activities in construction and seasonal demands. However, the index for the housing and fuel category rose only by 4 percent compared with the previous month.

The index for home furniture had an overall increase of 1.6 percent by itself causing half of the increase in the index for goods and non-food services.

Within the medical care and health category, the cost of medicine continued unchanged. However, due to continually rising fees for most medical services, the index for the aforementioned category rose by 8 percent.

The cited statistics also shows that compared with the same month last year, there has been an increase of 2.9 percent in the index for clothing, 3.3 in the index for housing and fuel, 5.2 percent in the index for houshold effects, 10.4 in the index for transportation and communications, 6.1 for in the index for medical care and health, 5.9 in the index for recreation, education and study, and 9.3 in the index for goods and miscellaneous services.

1281/9435
CSO: 4640/426

LANDLORDS' RETURN, WOMEN'S WEAR, NARCOTICS, MEDIA REVIEWED

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Jul 86 p 7

[Text] A judge should not come under the influence of the authorities, those in charge and matters outside of the Ministry of Justice.

Mashhad--JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Correspondent: During his trip to Holy Mashhad, the Prosecutor-General, His Emminence Kho'iniha, on Thursday morning made a statement at a gathering to those in charge of the courts of justice and to the public prosecutor's offices in the province of Khorasan, indicating the unspecified position of the judiciary in the culture of our society, and said: All the unhealthy social, political, economic and cultural ties and relations throughout the centuries are responsible for the unknown position that the judiciary occupies in our society's culture. Unfortunately this culture can still be spotted here and there in our society, and it is up to us to change this culture. Our brethren in the judicial system complain that as soon as they want to pass a judgement on a case, they receive telephone calls from all sides, saying that 'we are aware of the subject of this case, but it is not advisable to review it now.' If our judges cannot stop the recommendations and advice, they should be in control of their own actions. The Prosecutor-General then added that a judge should not come under the influence of the authorities, those in charge and others outside the Ministry of Justice, and if an attractive force influences his opinion, he should not pronounce a judgement at that time. A judge must be strong and should not allow a piece of advice or a recommendation to change the course of his case. A judge must close his eyes and ears to the world. This type of culture which can influence from afar and change level judgements, must be eradicated. In closing he said: If we who are involved in matters of justice start with ourselves and correct ourselves, society will accept us. According to this same report, His Emminence Kho'iniha during his stay in Mashhad delivered a speech at an assembly of judges and public prosecutors of the province's revolutionary public prosecutor's offices and courts of justice, which was held at Mashhad's Islamic Revolutionary public prosecutor's office. In this gathering he made some statements concerning the fight against narcotics, hoarding and overcharging, security and controlling the frontiers, and the question of the prisoners' pardon: Based on this report, the prosecutor-general yesterday afternoon, during an interview with the press at Mashhad's Islamic Revolutionary public prosecutor's office commented on

on the return of the landlords with their non-Islamic attire, the recent strike by some physicians, the fight against narcotics and the role of the press. According to our correspondent, the prosecutor-general initially commented on the landlords' return to the country: I warn you that the return of the corrupt individuals who at the beginning of the revolution fled the country is a danger signal. Both the people and those in charge in our society must take this warning bell seriously and face this matter in an alert and deep-reaching manner. Experience has proven that one must either have the people on one's side or one must...this small number [as published]. In response to the question about whether the problem of recommendations is considered an arresting factor in the judiciary or not, he said, it is necessary for our judges never to put their just legal task under the influence of these recommendations. Obviously, advice in the form of testimony by a pious and just person about a person who has been accused or who has a case in court is alright, but if under the guise of advice or testimony it changes the course of the case with a recommendation, this is a wrong act. Many of our judges do not pay any attention to these problems in their judgements. This is a dangerous act which could cause a judge to deviate from the correct path of examining a case. About the lack of decisive confrontation with women's non-Islamic attire Mr Mussavi Kho'iniha said: I do not agree that the confrontation with the problem of women's non-Islamic attire is solely the responsibility of the disciplinary forces followed by the authority of the courts, on the contrary I believe that by developing a plan and coordination, we can make all members of society responsible for confronting this problem as Prohibition from the Sin of commission. Of course, some of our friends who do not agree with this plan say that it is possible for opportunistic and anti-revolutionary people to show up and use these subject conditions and molest people, and this is one of the problems with this plan and it can be solved, and we can get help from the mosques, the clergy, the Hezbollahis, the mobilized individuals in all locations, and the Islamic Revolutionary Komitehs. I do not consider the manner with which the disciplinary officials and the public prosecutor's offices confront the problem of women's wear successful and the only way to succeed is to allow the people to conform with their religious responsibility which is to Prohibit from the Sin of commission according to a pre-specified program and plan. Of course, the problem of women's wear is connected with the return of the landlords and the capitalists and the fugitives, and the fact itself that we invite people who have been abroad for a number of years and who are unfamiliar with our culture to return to the country perpetuates non-Islamic women's attire.

The Prosecutor-General then indicated the country's judiciary's confrontation with the recent strike by some physicians and added: Our judicial organization has only had and still has a responsibility to confront these physicians' strike; in our country it is not at all accepted that one group should want to talk to those in charge of the Islamic Republic by going on a strike and taking refuge in a sanctuary. The association of the country's physicians is not one that would be unable to get in touch with those in charge of the country to voice their concerns. This has nothing to do with the judiciary but falls within the realm of the Majlis. They say a bill is being considered in the Majlis that does not meet their needs, and it is a crime to raise clubs

against the Majlis; the meaning of these gentlemen's strike is that this physician is saying to the Deputy of the Majlis that I will not attend to this feverish child whose life is in danger and I am on strike until you, the Deputy of the Majlis, pass the bill in a different way; if this group has not understood this clear statement and has gone on a strike to voice its concern, I consider this move a political one to come face to face with law and order, not a move by a trade union; in view of the fact that we are in a war situation and they are constantly bringing the wounded from the fronts, this act shows that these physicians wanted to propound an issue in the world that inside the country the rights of the physicians, who constitute an educated stratum, are being violated, and we will seriously confront this problem, and it is of no consequence to us if one hundred or two hundred physicians leave the country.

Mr Mussavi Kho'iniha then stressed the point that we have not been successful in confronting the problem of narcotics smuggling and said: One of the reasons why we have not been successful in confronting the problem of narcotics smuggling is the lack of a coherent strategy to confront this problem; although the people, the public prosecutor's offices, the revolutionary courts, and the disciplinary forces are ready to seriously confront this calamity which threatens our younger generation, there has been no serious thinking in search of a remedy on the part of the higher echelons of the country, and the time has come for those in charge of the country, i.e., the government, the Majlis, and the judiciary, to seriously study this problem and to come up with a law for a decisive confrontation with the drug problem. Of course, both we as the High Judicial Council and the Ministry of Interior have been negligent in this respect. In the remainder of the interview, Mr Kho'iniha responded to the question recently a group employing illogical means in its own newspaper has tried to weaken or overthrow the government and what the reaction of the Prosecutor-General's office would be in the event of a repitition of such acts, and said: I personally believe that as long as the newspapers remain within the limits of Islam and the criteria of the Islamic Revolution, they should be left free. I have often told friends and have spoken with the country's many newspapers that if these newspapers become one, they will not lose anything; I believe that our newspapers have become very preoccupied with self-censorship and there is nothing to read in the newspaper; they all write the same thing which has already been broadcasted by radio and television; is it that in our Majlis, our administration, our judiciary, and in all the organizations and administrative offices there is no critical issue and fault and defect to be criticized and written about, and do they all perform their duties perfectly, and is it really so? This is where we must allow the newspapers to speak their mind; now if there is one newspaper that writes against the administration and if that is meant to undermine the government, that should not be so. We who are in charge must accept criticism so that the newspapers can speak their mind more easily; why not say it if there is something to be criticized at the Majlis, is that weakening the head of the Majlis, or if there is a problem with the prime minister and it is mentioned, is that weakening him, of course if we say the newspapers should be free they will go fast, but we who are in charge must also have a little more tolerance for them to write things attributable to the people or to themselves; our newspapers write so little

of what they should be writing that when one newspaper comes and writes one thing we say that that newspaper is very much against the government, it may be that one newspaper believes that this is not a healthy government, well there is a group in the Majlis that has not voted for the government, during elections they try to bring a specific candidate to the Majlis and that is alright, we do not want to profess dictatorship in our country. They also criticize me and the judiciary a lot, in that newspaper they say 'they are not competent', well let them say it, if we are really not competent, those who are in charge will come and remove this incompetent one, and if they are competent, that newspaper destroys its credibility.

Now I do not know if what they say is meant to weaken or to criticize. If whenever one mentions the weakness of an organization it is taken as undermining, then one should never criticize!! The Imam says that criticism should be healthy and constructive and there should not be any undermining and that is how it should be. In any case, I do not consider the situation of the country's existing newspapers a good one; I believe that these three or four newspapers, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, KEYHAN, and ETTELA'AT and the other newspapers that do not agree with the government become one in view of the paper shortage and that the government print it. Our newspapers have become preoccupied with self-censorship and those in charge of the newspapers have become overly cautious. Based on this report, the Prosecutor-General in closing said: In our government it is not one group or one hand or one idea that runs the country, in the Majlis there are at least two ways of thinking that face one another, this goes as well for the administration and the judicial organization, and if they were with one idea and one song it would not mean a healthy order.

13065/12947
CSO: 4640/439

REST HOME FOR AGED, DISABLED BECOMES OPERATIONAL

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Jul 86 p 21

[Text] A 500-bed rest home for the aged and disabled will become operational at the beginning of the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988 - 20 Mar 1989]. At this moment 20 percent of the building construction has been completed. The use of this partially completed facility, to a degree, allows the rest home to ease problems by taking in aged and disabled patients.

Mehdi Rahimi, the managing director of the Organization of Rest Homes for the Aged and Disabled, said this during an interview with KEYHAN and added: "The Organization of Rest Homes for the Aged and Disabled was established in south Tehran in the year 1351 [21 Mar 1972 - 20 Mar 1973] through the efforts of the late Dr Mohammad Reza Hakimzadeh, and through the power of God and the unceasing efforts of the management and staff of this organization, has been expanded."

He added: "The Rest Home for the Aged and Disabled has seven women's wards and three men's wards now occupied by a total of 600 aged and disabled people who are indigent."

Referring to the annual financial needs of the rest home, he recalled: "Funding for the rest home will come from management and philanthropists both in Iran and abroad. The amount comes to 30 million tomans annually, a portion of which will come from the Organization for the Good Life, along with a significant amount from charitable and philanthropic people."

He added: "At the present time, 250 people work in the rest home as nurses, aides, doctors, and administrative cadre. The majority of them, apart from material remuneration, work because they feel a moral obligation to do so. People from all over Tehran, both men and women, from a sense of purity, solidity, and in order to offer help to the infirm, line up each week to offer their services to this organization free of charge."

The managing director of the Rest Home for the Aged and Disabled, with regard to the treatment of the aged and disabled stated: "The families of the disabled and aged turn to this rest home to take care of their relatives. At their request, they are given a registration card and special form. Aides

then are sent to the homes of the aged and disabled to inspect their place of residence and their condition in order to prepare a necessary report. The infirm are then put on a list and, after a waiting period, are accepted into the rest home."

Regarding the medical treatment offered to the aged and disabled patients he said: "Medical treatment in the rest home is free of charge, and a majority of the doctors who visit the patients do so gratis. In cases where surgery and a bed in a Tehran medical center are needed, the doctors immediately refer them to a hospital. After medical treatment in the hospital, the aged and disabled are transferred back to the rest home."

In conclusion, he requested that the mass media, particularly the Radio Voice and Vision, advertise the fact that the rest home for the aged and disabled exists to help the deprived, destitute, and poor, and that they are entitled to its facilities. In this way, anyone who does not have sufficient information, will become aware of its activities and, thus with the assistance of the people, this growing organization can be responsive to the needs of the public in a desirable manner.

13041/6662
CSO: 4640/449

BRIEFS

KRUPP BUILDING CHEMICAL COMPLEX--/Economic service. The West German "Krupp" company received an order from Iran valued at 190 million DM to build a chemical production factory for the polyester manufacturing industries/ [in boldface]. According to the "Krupp" company announcement, the decision has been made to build this factory, with an annual capacity of 60,000 tons, by 1989 near Esfahan. This order has been placed by the Ministry of Iranian Industries. Iranian companies will also cooperate in building the complex. According to "Krupp" officials, this order has nothing to do with Iran's being a shareholder in the "Krupp" company. According to the officials of the above-mentioned company, the volume of exchange between "Krupp" and Iran in 1984 and 1985 came to about 222 million DM and 100 million DM respectively. The orders received by Krupp from Iran this year are worth 240 million DM. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 86 p 1] 10,000

CSO: 4640/2

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO PANAMA--Islamabad, 26 August (APP)--The Government of Pakistan announces the concurrent accreditation of Mr M. Abdul Fazi, ambassador of Pakistan to Mexico as ambassador of Pakistan to Panama, says a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 86 p 3 BK] /12858

ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--The ambassadors-designate, Mr Fakhri abu Talib of Jordan and Mr (Muhammadul Awaz Tambo) of Nigeria, presented their credentials separately to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Sep 86] /12858

TEXTILE EXPORTS TO IRAN--Iran is to import nearly $30 million worth of textile goods from Pakistan this year.' This was stated by Federal Finance Minister Mian Mohammad Yasin Watto while addressing officials of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Faisalabad today. The meeting was also attended by members of the national and provincial assemblies of Faisalabad division. The finance minister apprised the meeting that Turkey is also interested in increasing economic cooperation with Pakistan and it will welcome cooperation from the Pakistani private sector in this regard. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Sep 86 BK] /12858

CHINESE AID FOR REFUGEES--Chinese Commercial Counsellor (Kao Jian) presented 5,000 metric tons of wheat in aid for the Afghan refugees to the Chief Commissioner for Refugees in Karachi today. Speaking on this occasion, (Kao Jian) said the government and people of China are always on the side of the Afghan people in their struggle against foreign aggression and support their efforts for a just political solution to the Afghan problem. He said China has always maintained the stand that all relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations should be implemented and the Soviet troops should be immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdrawn from Afghanistan and a guarantee given that the Afghan refugees will be able to live in peace after they return to their homeland. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 86] /12858

PAKISTAN, PRC TO INCREASE TRADE--Pakistan and China are to exchange goods worth 5.5 million rupees during the current fiscal year under the border trade agreement. This is 10 percent more than the amount of goods exchanged during the last financial year. This was decided in principle at the talks on border trade through Khunjerab Pass between the visiting Chinese delegation and Pakistan officials in Gilgit this evening. The vice director of Foreign Economic Relations of Trade Bureau, Xinjiang Province of China, Mr (Qadi Bai), led the Chinese side while the Pakistan side was led by the joint secretary, ministry of commerce, Mr Fasiuddin. The leader of the Chinese side, Mr (Qadi Bai), expressed the hope that opening of Khunjerab Pass for international traffic would be fully utilized by both the countries for increasing barter trade. The leader of Pakistan side, Mr Fasiuddin, referred to the exemplary brotherly and friendly relations enjoyed by the two countries and expressed satisfaction over the increase in the barter trade so far. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Sep 86 BK] /12858

CSO: 4600/9

PAPER VIEWS GANDHI ROLE IN TAMIL PEACE TALKS

BK230355 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 Sep 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Rajiv Gandhi's Plea for Peace"]

[Text] The Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is reported to have assured his Sri Lankan counterpart, at a meeting in Harare, that he would try to persuade the separatist extremists to accept the scheme granting substantial autonomy to the proposed Provincial Councils.

Indian intervention in the conflict in Sri Lanka is no intrusion upon our affairs. It will be recalled that during the last Indo-Chinese clash, Sri Lanka's Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, then prime minister, helped to bring about a cease-fire. No one construed Sri Lanka's effort as a diminution of Indian or Chinese sovereignty.

In the present situation, India has a particular role to play in so far as our northern Tigers have involved her territory by fitting out training camps on the mainland. It is also well known that most of the Tamil leaders involved in the present crisis have been based for years now in Tamil Nadu. Over and above that, is the fact that, in this space age, no country--neither India nor Sri Lanka--can remain indifferent to events across her frontier.

Mr Gandhi has made no secret of his support for a negotiated settlement; for an early end to the bloodshed to begin with. Not even the most militant of Tamil guerrillas can afford to ignore the considered opinion of the Indian prime minister. They cannot demand the shelter of Indian soil and defy Indian thinking at the same time.

Again, there is the equally pressing reason that continued combat can only lead to more bloodshed and prove futile in the end.

The current hardships caused by the violence in the north and the east are causing problems not merely for the government of this island, but for the Tamils as well; in other words, it is a calamity that has shattered the life of the community, both in the peninsula and in the Eastern Province.

The education of Tamil youth, the economy of the Tamil areas and many other aspects of life in those regions have suffered primarily through the violence of the separatist extremists.

From the Indian point of view, instability across the Palk Strait is undesirable. Moreover, the terrorist tactic of operating from Indian territory raises questions of good neighbourliness; raises issues relating to her own opposition to international terrorism.

The Sri Lankan Government has with much vision, gone as far as any government can possibly hope to--to bring about peace with honour.

The terrorists would be sowing more than one dangerous wind if they choose to spurn the latest Indian call for saner counsel.

/12858
CSO: 4600/8

BRIEFS

CHINESE-AIDED POWER PROJECT--Colombo, 13 Sept (LANKA PUWATH)--Work on the Nilambe hydro power project is now in progress, a spokesman for the Ceylon Electricity Board told LANKA PUWATH. He said the Government of the People's Republic of China is providing one-third of the cost of the project, drawn from the 100 million renminbao [RMB] yuan loan made under the agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the governments of Sri Lanka and the People's Republic of China signed in June 1972. Two-thirds of the balance will be met by Sri Lanka. The total price of the contract with the China National Complete Plant Export Corporation for the construction of the Nilambe power project is 17.40 million yuan (RMB) of which 11.9087 million (RMB) will be defrayed from the Chinese loan. Of this 9.163 million will be spent in China and (?2.7457) million yuan which forms one-third of the local expenses will be spent in this country. Two-thirds of the local expenses--5.4913 million yuan will be paid in Sri Lanka rupee. [Excerpt] [Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0907 GMT 13 Sep 86 BK] /12858

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